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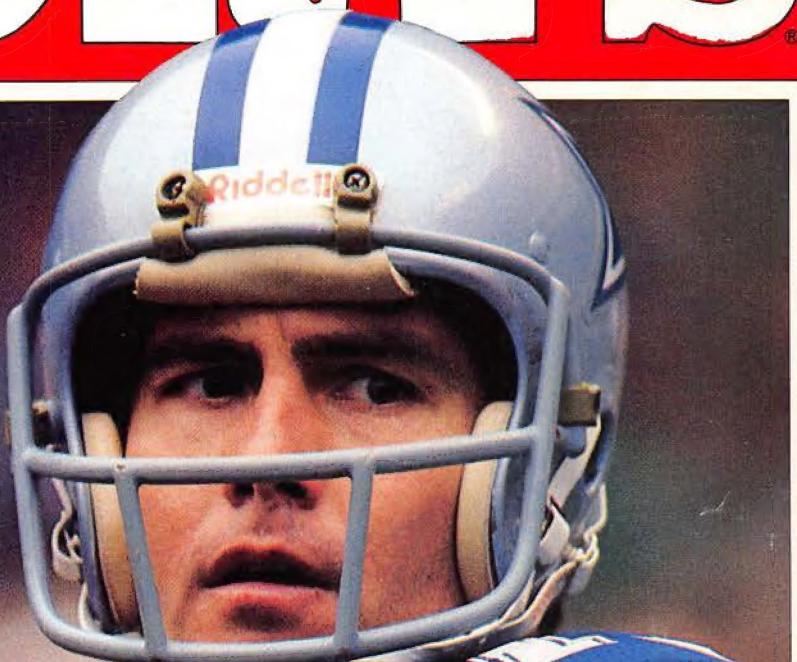
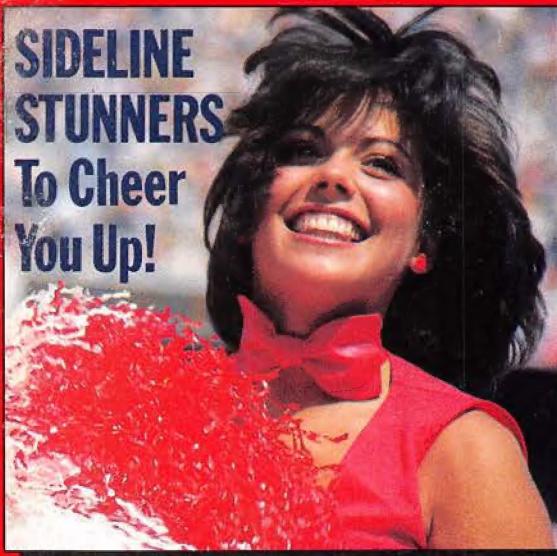
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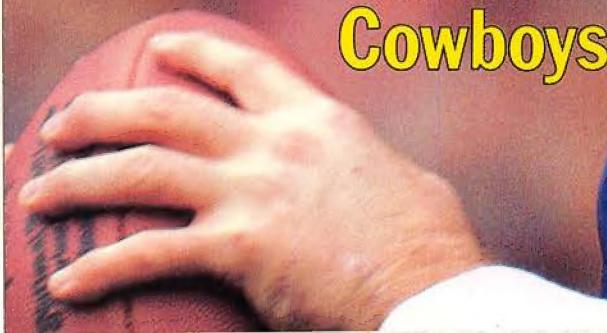
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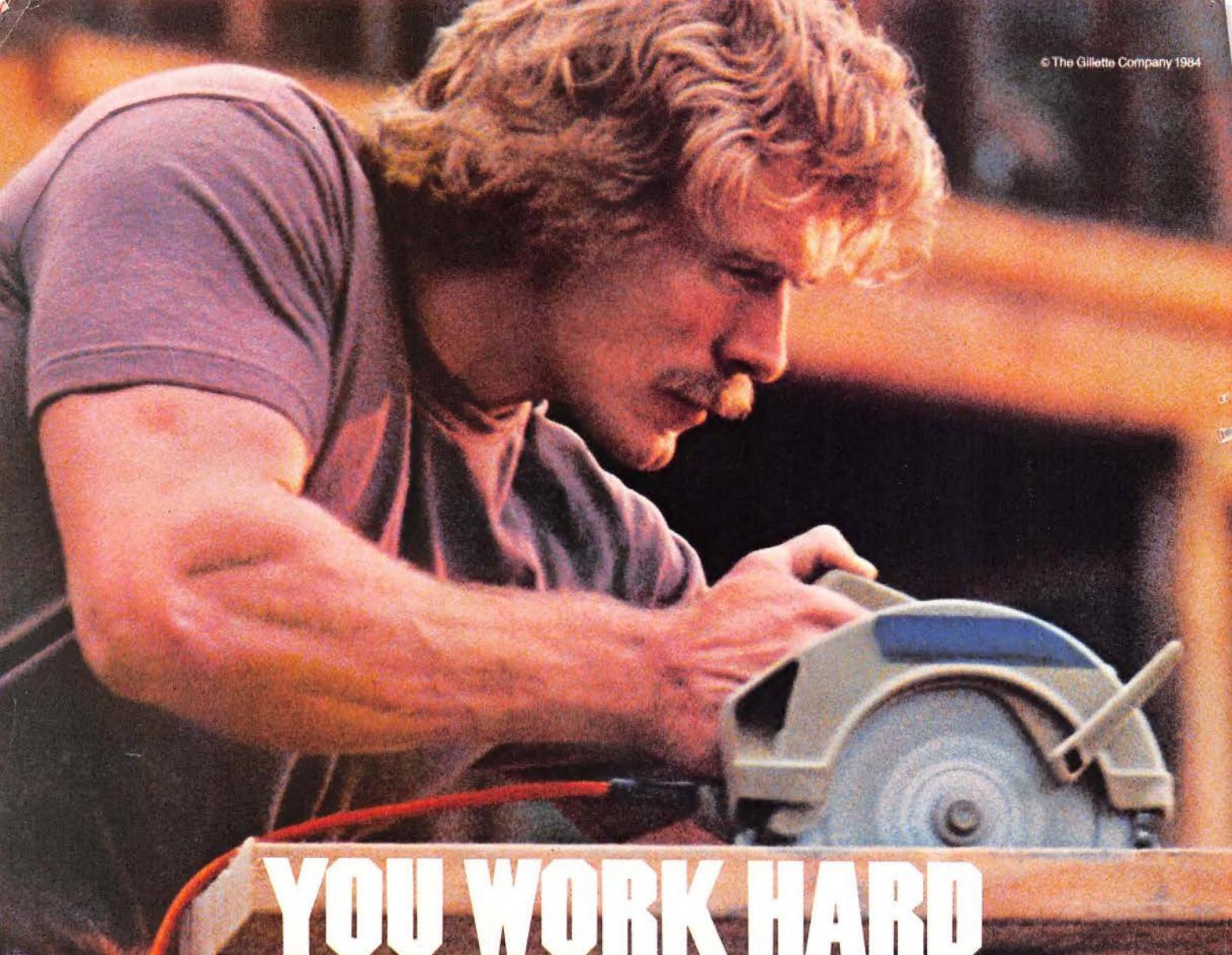


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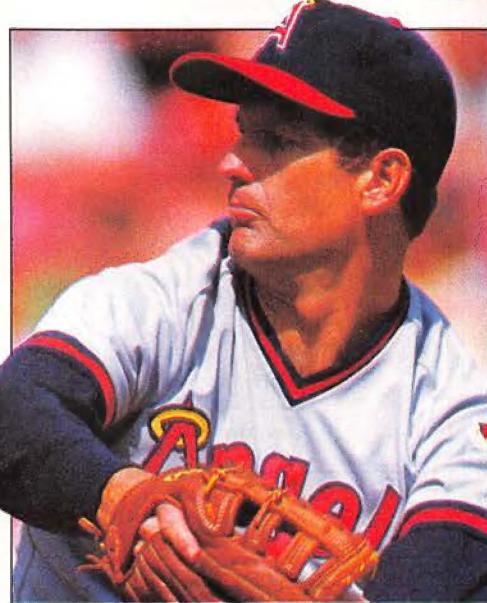
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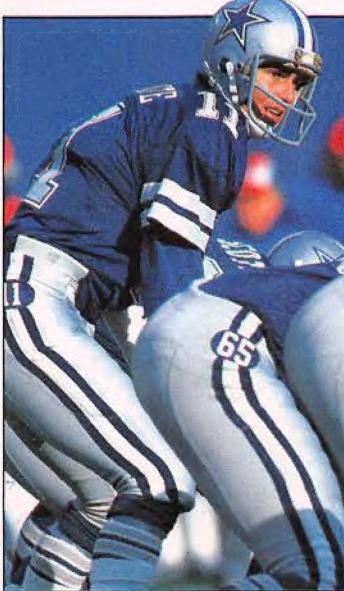
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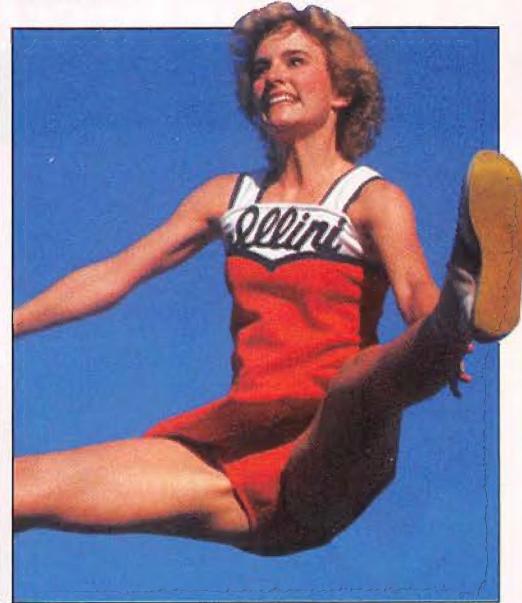
SPORTS®



20



26



60

FEATURES

20 Interview: Tommy John

There are still some wins in that old rebuilt machine
By STEVE FIFFER

26 Trouble in Big D

The Cowboys face problems: The big one is White vs. Hogeboom
By CARLTON STOWERS

34 1984 NFL Preview: The AFC

The division winners will be the Dolphins, Steelers, and Raiders
By KENT PULLIAM

46 1984 NFL Preview: The NFC

We like the Redskins, Packers, and 49ers
By JIM SMITH

60 Cheers!

A peek at football's cheerleaders, guaranteed to cheer you up

68 The NCAA Top 20

Nebraska won't be denied again
By ARA PARSEGHIAN

76 The Anchorman Next Door

Jim McKay, Mr. Olympics, is a reliable neighbor to millions of fans
By TOM JACKSON

DEPARTMENTS

7 The Insider

8 Media

By BOB RUBIN

12 Gambling

By JERRY IZENBERG

18 Letters

87 Humor

By LOU FIOTO

90 On The Loose

By MICHAEL GLOBETTI

94 The Good Doctor

96 Numbers

98 The Fan

By GAY TALESE

Cover: Danny White photo by Al Messerschmidt; New England Patriots Cheerleader photo by Robert B. Shaver



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IJUST REACHED THE point where I couldn't do it mentally anymore," says Bjorn Borg in explaining his abandonment of a pro tennis career that saw him win five consecutive Wimbledon titles between 1976 and 1980, and smash his way to every major Grand Prix title except the U.S. Open. "I'd had enough. I realized there were other things I could do with my life—even if it's nothing serious.

"If you want to be No. 1, or even No. 5 [ranked in the world], it has to be your entire life. I could never go back to playing seven days a week, four or five hours a day. It's not that I don't love tennis anymore—I'm still a part of it. I just enjoy it in a different way."

The tennis world keeps hoping that Borg will have a change of heart and re-inject some class into a pro tour that now features the likes of superbrat John McEnroe, tempestuous Jimmy Connors, and surly Ivan Lendl. But Borg, who quit the circuit in January 1983, is now content just playing for fun.

"I'll never go back to the tour," says the low-key Swede, who once put his opponents on ice with a relentless baseline game. Borg now plays only a few exhibition matches, one or two Grand Prix tournaments—for fun—and competes annually in the Monte Carlo Grand Prix in order to maintain tax-free residency. In addition, with his new relaxed attitude toward the sport, he gives summer clinics and works major events on television as a color commentator.

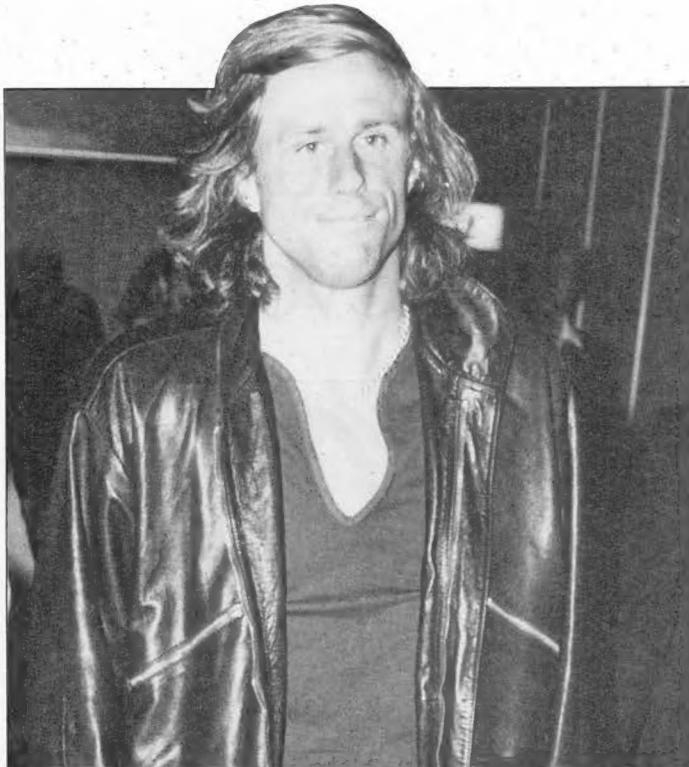
"People say to me, 'We miss you, come back,' says Borg. "But . . . I just want to play tennis for fun."

"I wish he'd come back," says his good friend and occasional exhibition opponent, Vitas Gerulaitis. "But the man made a decision. He doesn't owe anything to anyone. He gave back just as much as he received. People respect him and care about him. He's Bjorn Borg."

BROTHERS PHIL AND STEVE MAHRE, WHO OUTRAGED some people during the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo with their comments about Olympic medals not being worth much to them because they'd already made their fortunes, have retired from the World Cup circuit; but skiing is a mistress they can't leave.

They are now contributing editors to a skiing magazine and will write major articles and a monthly column on ski tips and racing.

They have developed an all-weather line of ski clothing that was introduced at a ski show in Las Vegas and will be available this fall in stores in the United States, Canada, and Japan.



Borg: 'I just want to play tennis for fun.'

They have taped a 13-week, half-hour ski show called "Ski News Today." The syndicated show is scheduled for airing in the fall and will feature segments on instruction, equipment, ski areas, racing news, recreational skiing, personalities, and ski conditions.

And, they are setting up Mahre Ski Centers at ski areas around the country.

Jean-Claude Killy, the brilliant Frenchman who swept the men's downhill, giant slalom, and slalom at the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble, has called the Mahre brothers "the greatest skiers America has ever produced."

The Mahres have certainly justified Killy's assessment. Phil is the only American ever to capture the men's World Cup title, winning it three straight

times between 1981 and '83. He also was the slalom silver medalist in the 1980 Olympics and capped his brilliant career by winning the slalom gold on the last day of this year's Winter Olympics.

Steve, meanwhile, finished first in the giant slalom in the 1982 World Championships and was runner-up to his brother in the Olympic slalom last February.

"Steve and I are looking forward to our new careers," said Phil.

FOR SOME OLYMPIC ATHLETES, THE SOVIET-BLOC boycott of the Los Angeles Games has put tarnish on their medals, a taint that no amount of polishing will remove. Just how valuable is an Olympic gold medal—even in a normal year? The opinions vary.

Don (Tarzan) Bragg, 1960 gold medalist in the pole vault: "It's an everlasting, perpetual award. It's a claim that doesn't lessen with the years. They just can't take it away from you. Its advantages far exceed its disadvantages, but there are some disadvantages. For example, if it opens doors for you, and you're trying for a job, the conversation often stems around your Olympic accomplishment rather than the business at hand."

Horace Ashenfelter, 1952 Olympic gold medalist in the 3,000-meter steeplechase: "It means at one point in your life you were the best at what you did in a sports event. But it's important to keep it in perspective. It was part of your youth, and you won it at just a game. You can't live on it. Now I don't even know where my medal is."

Steve Riddick, 1976 Olympic gold medalist in the 400-meter relay: "It puts you in exclusive company. It also means that when you're 40 or 50 years old, you can sit back and marvel at it . . . and let your kids or your grandchildren marvel at it, too." ■

By BOB RUBIN

Costas Should Put a Halt To NBC's Revolving Door

BOB COSTAS WAS only 30, and had been working full time for NBC Sports for less than a year in the summer of 1982, when the network offered him a chance to leap from obscurity to stardom in a single bound.

Then a pro football play-by-play man on regional telecasts who also worked occasional backup baseball and college basketball games, Costas was asked if he'd like to replace Bryant Gumbel as host of the NFL pregame show, "NFL '82," that fall.

It was and is a high-visibility assignment, one that would have immediately thrust Costas into national prominence. That it was offered to a no-name kid with no background whatsoever in the tricky business of hosting a studio show indicates just how much NBC thought of Costas' potential.

The kicker is that Costas said no thanks.

"It wasn't a flat turndown, but more an expression of misgivings," he recalls. "I felt I could probably do a competent job, but that the timing wasn't 100% right. I was just getting comfortable with NBC and I was totally unknown to a national audience. And if it worked out, there was no assurance I wouldn't wind up a year-round studio guy, which I didn't want. I consider myself primarily a play-by-play man, and baseball is my first love. I was afraid of losing that."

So Len Berman replaced Gumbel, and in the words of NBC executive producer Mike Weisman, was a "very competent host" in his two seasons on the show. However, Weisman didn't think competency was



'Switching to Costas [from Berman] is a risk, but we see a potential for greatness in him. He brings a spark, an enthusiasm we think can make this show sizzle.'

enough in the make-or-break position on a show he considers vital to his department's image, so he called again on Costas, who had enhanced his reputation as a budding superstar in the two years between offers.

Who says opportunity knocks but once?

This time, Costas said yes.

He is the new host of "NFL '84," and Weisman hopes and believes Costas will occupy the seat for the next 20 years, and end a revolving-door series of changes Weisman says has damaged the show in its long and probably hopeless pursuit of its more popular CBS rival, "The NFL Today."

Berman has been let down gently. He just signed a new two-year contract with NBC and will remain the studio host, except when

Costas moves in during the fall. "We still consider Lenny an important part of NBC Sports," Weisman says.

Berman will not talk about the switch to Costas on the NFL pregame show. "It's a very sensitive matter to him and he respectfully declines to comment," a network spokesman said.

For Costas, the timing and everything else was right the second time around. He feels comfortable at NBC, he's better known nationally, and while he no longer will team with Bob Trumpy on NFL broadcasts, he won't have to give up the Saturday afternoon baseball games he loves and handles so well with Tony Kubek.

NBC wisely allowed Costas a two-month trial run in the studio wraparound show at the start of the year.

"They said if I didn't like it, or

if they felt they had made a misjudgment about me, this was a low-key, no-pressure way to find out. You know, you hear all these stories about how cold and unfeeling the networks are, but they were very sensitive to my needs, so I felt I had to give it a shot. I found I enjoyed it—much more than I thought I would.

"And they have flatly assured me I'll always have a role in baseball. In September, when the seasons overlap, I will be able to do a game on Saturday, then fly to New York on Sunday for the football show. And when we're doing the playoffs or World Series, they have said it will be all right for me to take a week off from football."

Costas' new job is formidable. In addition



A true story by
Wilton Hildenbrand

I never made "real money" until I quit working for someone else and started my own Duraclean business

"When I was with the New York City Fire Department—with a wife, and three children to raise—I felt I spent most of my time putting out financial fires at home! It occurred to me that I could never achieve the financial security and independence we craved working for someone else. The obvious answer—start a business of our own. But what? Sure, we had been able to



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I rendered the service. When we discovered how much money there was to be made in a Duraclean dealership, I took early retirement from the fire department. Before long, I had to hire part-time servicemen. Soon, profits paid for our first van. Now most of the work is done by our four servicemen. Marge schedules the jobs, sends out mailings and does the bookkeeping. I do the job estimating, special spotting jobs and contact new prospects."

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to delivering hard news and handling all the switches to different locations, he must keep the show moving, parcel out air time to others, interact with them in a way that brings the best out of them, be flexible enough to handle frequent updates smoothly, and more.

The state of the art of hosting is exemplified by Brent Musburger on "The NFL Today."

"He's the heart and soul of their show, the only one who's irreplaceable," Weisman says with admiration. "Just watch the way he handles Jimmy the Greek. They don't just give the Greek three minutes the way we do Ax [Pete Axthelm]. They bring Musburger over to him to keep him on the right track, to set him up, to pull stuff out of him."

"And Musburger has a great ability to keep things rolling and to tie up loose ends. He's relaxed, he's pleasant, he's got a warm smile, he's very likable."

What is NBC hoping for from Costas? Merely greatness, though not right away and not by aping Musburger.

"Len Berman was and is bright and knowledgeable," Weisman says. "In 20 weeks of 10-hour days, I don't think he made more than a handful of mechanical mistakes. We knew what we had with him, a consummate pro who was growing more comfortable with the role and gaining the public's trust."

"Switching to Costas is a clear risk, but we see a potential for greatness in him. He brings a spark, an enthusiasm, an electricity and a sense of humor we think can make the show sizzle. It's an ensemble show, and we hope and think he'll make those around him better, the way Musburger does."

"We think by interacting and maybe sparing with Axthelm that Pete will be better. We're hoping Costas can get the great warmth and humor out of Ahmad Rashad, who's like an untapped resource now. This is more a change of style than substance."

Weisman expects Costas to suffer growing pains and is prepared to live with them.

"This is a totally different job from doing play-by-play—the two are apples and oranges," Weisman says. "He's unproven and no way will he be as good mechanically as Berman. He's very, very raw and he's going to make mistakes, but he's a quick study and he'll learn."

Weisman also feels the timing is right for Costas to make his mark nationally.

"I understand his reluctance the first time," Weisman says. "He likes play-by-play and never had this kind of responsibility. I think he recognized that if he screwed up, his reputation could be tainted. He was nervous and apprehensive."

"For the last few years he has been called 'the best up-and-coming broadcaster in the business.' We just felt it was time to drop the

up-and-coming, to take a risk, to put it on the line. Though he's known in the media, he hasn't had great national exposure. This is a coming out party, and very chancy for everyone involved. We're gambling he's ready now."

It's a major gamble because the NFL pre-game show is a very important property.

"It's our flagship, our bellwether, our anchor, our image," Weisman says. "NFL football is our most important and prestigious property, and the pregame show, being its home base, profoundly influences the way we're perceived."

With its constant turnover of personnel, including its third host in three years, Weisman knows the public perception is not what he'd like, particularly when contrasted with the stability of the staff of "The NFL Today."

A few years ago, before Axthelm began his witty, winning tenure as house bookie and philosopher, NBC had a computer named Statz spitting out predictions on ticker tape. "Clever at the time, but not much warmth," muses Weisman.

On the other hand, viewers got great warmth and familiarity when they tuned in Brent, Greek, Phyllis, and Irv. Year after year, same faces. They're almost family.

That's one reason the CBS pregame show has always beaten NBC's in the ratings, but it's not the main one. Even if "The NFL Today" was clearly inferior in quality to NBC's show—which it isn't—it probably would win the ratings war. That's because CBS covers the NFC, which has far bigger TV markets than the AFC cities on NBC, and viewers naturally watch the show that precedes the game involving their team.

Both networks have a team in New York and Los Angeles, the nation's two largest markets, but the Giants and Rams (the NFC teams) have much larger followings than the Jets and Raiders because they've been in those cities a lot longer.

As for the rest of the league, the only two cities in the nation's top 10 TV markets that belong exclusively to NBC are Boston and Houston, while CBS owns the other six—Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Detroit, Washington, and Dallas-Fort Worth.

Thus the battle between the pregame shows really isn't a fair fight. Nevertheless, NBC keeps punching.

"It's a competition, and there's a lot of pride involved," Weisman says. "It's not like just pointing a camera at a field. It's creative. They want to stay on top and we want to improve."

"We decided we can't compete with their warmth and folksiness, so we have tried to take a different approach. We're quicker paced and more newsy, with a harder edge. We do shorter stories and more of them. I feel we've had some success and are going in

the right direction. I think we've made some inroads in the public perception and are regarded as a serious show."

"And I think we've spurred CBS on a little. The joke around our place was that all they liked to do was show some nice action footage with Frank Sinatra singing in the background. But I think they've become a little more news oriented the last few years."

Now Costas enters the fray.

"The first words that come to my mind are eager and excited, but somewhere in there would also be apprehension," he says. "I'd be crazy not to be a little apprehensive. There are so many things beyond your control. I can speak fairly glibly for two minutes, but what if the tape breaks while I'm talking, or the producer says, 'We've just been joined by the audience in Green Bay so you've got to welcome them.'

"How smoothly will I be able to do that, get back on the track and finish on time? The raw broadcasting I can handle, but to develop the craft . . . yes, that scares me a little."

Weisman is betting that Costas will, in time, prove a superior craftsman and a star.

"I've heard that for the past few years," Costas says. "It's flattering, but I'm not quite sure what a star is. I'm interested in being a good broadcaster and covering things I enjoy. If that incidentally makes me a star, fine. But I'm not going out of my way in pursuit of that. There are certain assignments that get you great exposure I wouldn't care to do."

"If it happens, OK. It's definitely something I would enjoy within reason. But it would be icing on the cake, that's all. I'm doing this [hosting 'NFL '84'] because it's a challenge to do something different and because NBC Sports thinks it will help them. But my first goal remains to be the best play-by-play baseball man I can be."

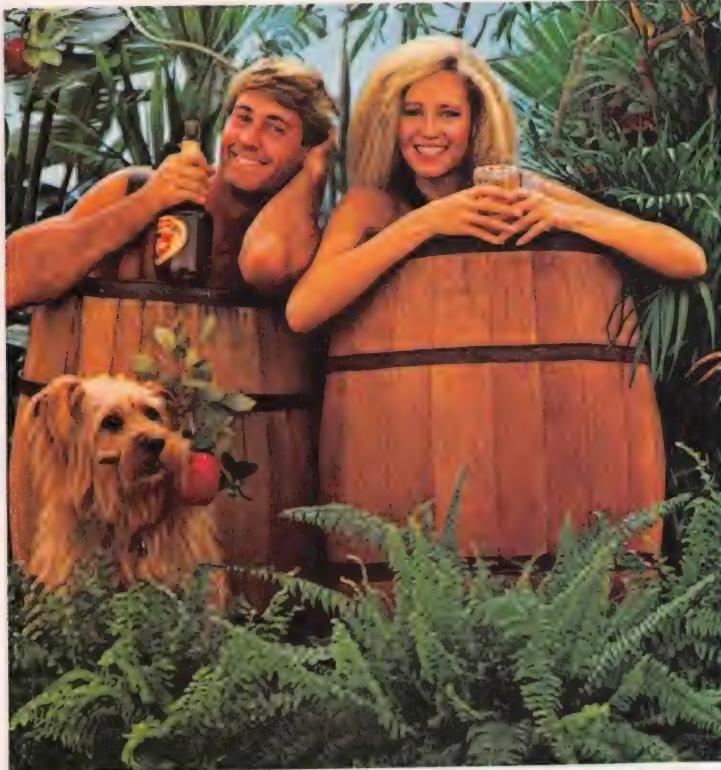
As such, he actually enjoys his anonymity. He says the greatest compliments he has been paid come from people who don't recognize him. "I'll be on a plane or in a restaurant and someone will say, 'I really enjoy that Costas and Kubek.' That really makes me feel great because they're praising my work, not my name or celebrity status."

If Weisman's gamble succeeds, Costas' days of anonymity are numbered. But even if he proves as good as Weisman hopes he will, it doesn't mean NBC will overtake CBS in the pregame-show skirmish.

Moans Weisman: "With the success of their show and the markets stacked against us, I don't know whether our ratings would improve if our hosts were Michael Jackson and Loni Anderson in a bikini." ■

When contributing editor BOB RUBIN leaped to stardom with the Media column, the only regret he had was that he could no longer use his American Express card in anonymity.

How to tempt your lover without wearing a fig leaf.



First there was light. Followed soon thereafter by man and woman, a.k.a. Adam and Eve. Then came the business with the apple, and before you could say "You snake in the grass," five zillion years went by. But all wasn't for naught, because that fateful faux pas not only altered the history of haberdashery but also inspired the creation

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By JERRY IZENBERG

The Great Newark Typo Caper

SOME YEARS BACK, when the world was so young that politicians actually professed they believed legalized off-track betting was going to be so effective that nobody would ever get to write Godfather VII, I covered the opening of the first such parlor in an Hispanic neighborhood up in the Bronx. This was a very important occasion and the management at New York OTB even sprung for a Latin band and bilingual win, place, and show signs.

As they cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of the door that was going to make all the neighborhood barbers stop taking bets and start cutting hair again, Howard Samuels, the first president of the organization, made a stirring speech. The point of Howard's address was that at last a way had been found to fight organized crime.

The local bookies would be routed. Not a penny would be bet ever again illegally on anything.

Meanwhile, two blocks away the Gomez Brothers were passing the word that everything was "go" for the Sunday cockfights in their basement, a local newsdealer was sending in his action on the day's card at Aqueduct, and Chico was already well into his rounds as the curb-service-with-a-smile king for the local policy bank. If truth be told, the only ones who weren't able to make a bet were Howard Samuels and the army of writers and photographers at his heels, because the mutual machines inside the OTB joint were mysteriously jammed for five minutes.



Some folks bought a Newark paper and some bought a New York paper. When the numbers didn't jibe, all hell broke loose. By noon, the city's economy had ground to a halt.

That, of course, was some years back. For the record, the locals are still betting on cockfights, the bookies are still sending it in, and Chico is still making his rounds. If this is fighting organized crime, then you could make a serious case for a number of third-rate fighters who once sought the heavyweight championship of the world by trying to induce Joe Louis to break his left hand on their jutting chins.

Still, the trend of government in gambling has not been slowed by the struggle, and let us not knock it, because over the years a lot of fellows who rang a lot of doorbells for The Party were saved from the shame of honest employment by having found work within this system. One must also concede that it is

a lot neater than having to create various jobs like sidewalk inspector and midtown shark-patrolle.

It is a harmless enough exercise in self-delusion for the pols and for that segment of the voting population that still believes in Tinkerbell. Unhappily, however, it was followed by an epidemic of state lotteries and a lot of folks out there on the streets who still play "the real numbers" are mad as hell these days.

The lotteries in several Eastern states are getting a lot of attention because they have made millionaires of some people. The numerical odds on such a happenstance are roughly the same as those every seven-year-old Chinese kid has this morning of growing up to be chairman of the Communist Party. This does not bother those who find lotteries

tiresome, because they understand the need to dream as well as the next player does.

What has them up in arms is the mess down at the local candy store, where the lines for the lottery are so long, they can't break in long enough to buy a stick of gum. What also has them up in arms are the swell television ads, billboards, and other public relations gimmicks. They are far from stupid and they can count as well as anybody else, and they figure that all that public relations isn't being done by The United Way, so somebody has to get paid for it, and the more paid out on such frills the less paid out to smaller winners.

According to a fellow who makes his living by billing himself as an expert on organized

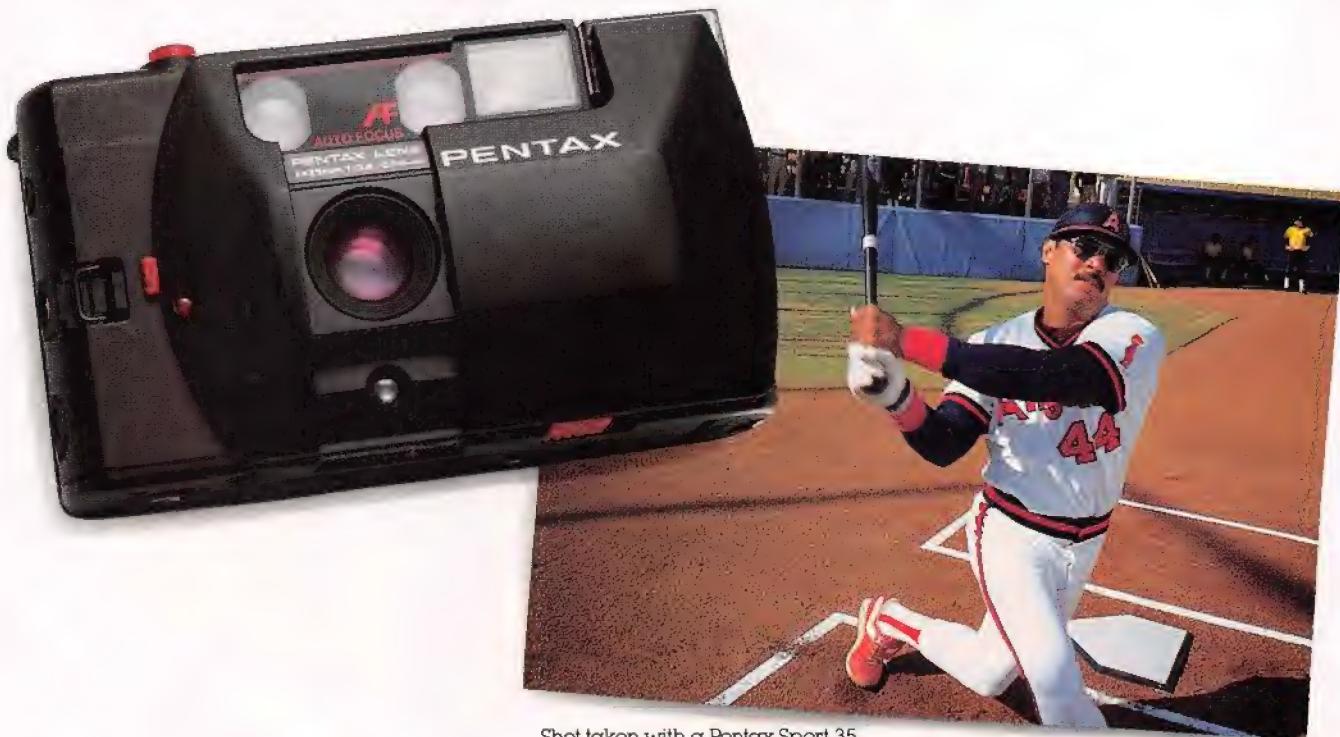
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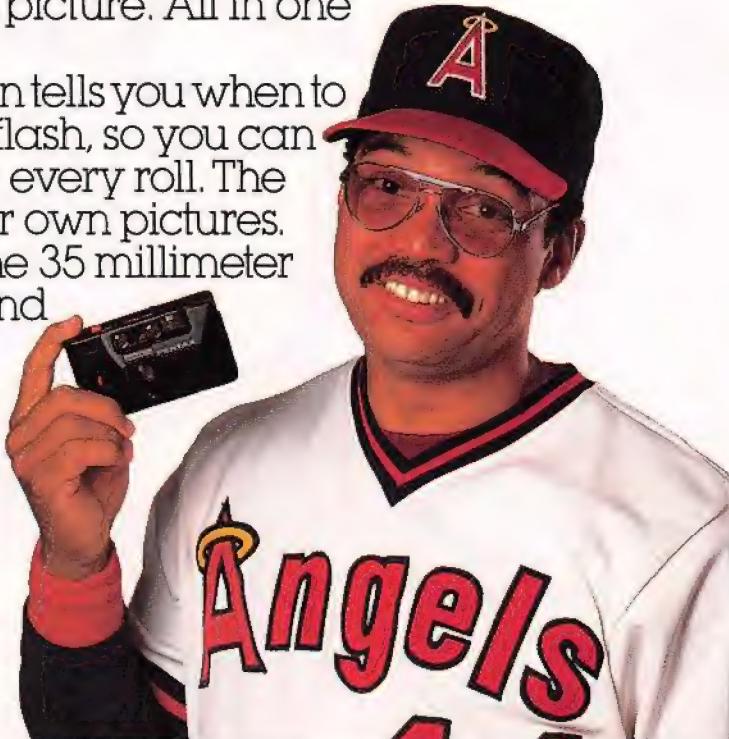
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crime; these are simply soreheads who do not realize that in New York City, between OTB and the lottery, illegal betting on either horses or numbers is a thing of the past.

Nobody really knows where this fellow has his office, because he is always on the road doing some kind of consultant work, but it is safe to assume that if he does get his mail in any type of office building, he can surely bet on either a horse or a number without leaving the joint—and possibly without even having to leave his floor.

It may be said with certainty, therefore, that free enterprise isn't dead. It isn't even out to lunch. If you doubt this, then you should be aware that in the greater New York City area, "the real number" is determined by the last three digits in the betting handle of whatever New York racetrack is operating that day, as printed in the daily newspapers. To fix the number, therefore, a guy would have to stand in front of every mutuel window at, say, Aqueduct, with a loaded shotgun before the last race, while his confederates took everybody else except the jockeys and mutuel clerks hostage. This is a far more ambitious undertaking than the time an official of the Pennsylvania State Lottery once fixed the result by injecting a syringe into those little numbered ping pong balls that get mixed around in the cages.

A lot of folks, therefore, still play "the real numbers." Exactly how many of them are regular investors has never been accurately researched, because the kind of researchers you'd have to employ are too smart to irritate the kind of people who are the keepers of the necessary source materials. In such cases a man could find himself transferred to a new project, like, perhaps, measuring how fast a body (his) will drop to the bottom of the Hudson River with a juke box manacled to his ankles.

But a fair idea of the impact of this business can be gained from studying the results of what policy scholars still refer to as The Great Newark, N.J., Typo Caper. Gambling is a part of Newark's gross national product and folks there are very serious about it. Law enforcement officials on every level have always attacked it vigorously on the theory that booking action on which numbers will pop up in the bottom line of a racetrack handle is a far more serious crime than, say, arson. They arrest people in droves for things like running policy banks. Some people say the reason the police are so successful at catching them is the fact that the arsonists keep turning them in.

At any rate, there came this day when all of Newark rushed to its morning newspapers to see whether their 25-cent piece had whelped a couple of hundred dollars for them during the night. Some folks bought a

Newark paper and some folks bought a New York paper and everyone froze because the numbers didn't jibe. What followed was Homeric.

You have to understand a little about Newark to appreciate it. When Orson Welles did his infamous radio adaptation of "The War of the Worlds," all America huddled in fear when the phony news reports announced

other one. Nobody knew who to ask. Numbers runners hid out in Christian Science reading rooms.

Players finally found them and suggested they negotiate. The tools they wanted to negotiate with were large lead pipes. For the first and only time in the city's history, all action was carried over into the next day without further investment. When the word

Law enforcement officials attack gambling vigorously on the theory that betting on numbers is a more serious crime than, say, arson. They arrest people in droves for running policy banks. Some say the police are successful at catching them because arsonists keep turning them in.

that Martians had not only landed but they were making their way up Raymond Boulevard in Newark. But in Newark, they immediately began laying odds on how many heads the aliens had. When flash blizzards strike without warning on a winter work day, people in Newark don't worry about how they'll get home. They are too busy rooting for the amount of snow that will correspond to the number of inches they drew in the office pool.

A decade or so ago, when the mayor and the president of the city council were indicted on the same day for assorted violations of public trust, most folks agreed that it wasn't so bad. It wasn't as if they had been caught trying to fix a basketball game.

In short, nothing—but absolutely nothing—stops the city's population from making its appointed rounds. But screw up one lousy digit in the morning number and . . .

All hell broke loose. The local newspaper's switchboard set the continental land mass record for busy signals. Whenever somebody got through, that portion of the conversation that can be printed here went like this:

Operator: "Yes . . . I know . . . I'm sorry, sir . . . No, I can't tell you whether the number is correct . . . No, I am not a public servant . . . What do you mean by that . . . I am not a mother . . . I am not even married . . . that's a terrible thing to say . . ."

By noon, the entire city's economy had ground to a halt. Bankers refused to pay off. Guys who had told everyone on the block they had made a score after reading one newspaper, couldn't collect after reading the

went out, the celebration looked like V-J Day revisited.

This, of course, was extreme, but you have to understand what was at stake. The issue wasn't money. Your wife could run away with the milkman. Your partner could empty the safe. You would survive. But if you can't keep your faith in the guy who picks up your play each day, then who can you trust?

We are talking about a basic axiom of the streets here. Politicians sometimes find this difficult to understand, but then we should not be surprised by that. Politicians find a lot of things difficult to understand. Some years ago, some very clever minds in New York City got the idea that the city should move into the neighborhoods with a passion, in an effort to organize and take over the illegal numbers trade.

The argument was that valuable tax dollars were slipping into an underground economy—that an entire industry had been permitted to spawn and flourish without so much as a single income tax return finding its way back to the treasury.

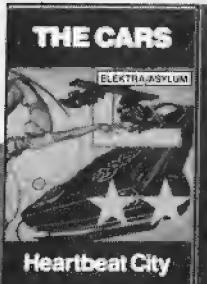
Technically and legally, of course, this is correct. But emotionally, well, the old ways die hard. And, finally, gut instincts do not change.

Tell the truth now, would you give a guy in a three-piece suit your action on nothing more than a handshake? ■

Every so often you can spot contributing editor JERRY IZENBERG in the long lines down at the local candy store. He occasionally gets a craving for a Baby Ruth.

322982	WILLIE NELSON WITHOUT A SONG	322842	CULTURE CLUB Colour By Numbers	323162	GENESIS
325936	MISSING PERSONS RHYME & REASON	325928	Laura Branigan SELF CONTROL	325910	JOE JACKSON BODY AND SOUL
319608	MEN AT WORK CARGO	323147*	WAGNER HIGHLIGHTS FROM "THE RING" LONDON	318550	DEF LEPPARD PYROMANIA
319574	JOAN RIVERS WHAT BECOMES A SMILE LEGEND MOST?	326009*	ORION THE HUNTER	325993	LARRY GATLIN & THE GATLIN BROTHERS BAND HOOTSTON TO DENVER
315515	ROSANNE CASH SOMEWHERE IN THE STARS	322008	LINDA RONSTADT & THE NELSON RIVER ORCHESTRA WHAT'S NEW?	316406	BO'D NEEL THE PIANO CONCERTO AND OTHER BARBECUE MOSC MUSIC GROUP
319566	AL JARREAU JARREAU	321975	AC/DC Flick Of The Switch	322545	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FAME
325852	RUSH GRACE UNDER PRESSURE	236885	CARPENTERS The Singles 1969-1973	322867	LACY J. DALTON GREATEST HITS
323022	ANNE MURRAY A Little Good News	321422	BONNIE TYLER FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF NIGHT	325845	SCORPIONS Love At First Sting
319558	ELTON JOHN'S Greatest Hits, Vol. 2	325506	- JOHNNY LEE 'TIL THE BARS BURN DOWN	323824	EARTH, WIND & FIRE Electric Universe
325837*	JEFF DORRER IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT	321968	STRAY CATS MAN IN MAN WITH THE STRAY CATS	323865	SHELLY WEST RED HOT
219477	SIMON & GARFUNKEL'S GREATEST HITS	325480	TEO NUGENT PENETRATOR	325803	GO-GO'S TALK SHOW
318873*	FRIDAY SOMETHING'S GOING ON	321562	ASIA ALPHA	322909	Hank Williams, Jr. MAN OF STEEL
319541	ELTON JOHN'S GREATEST HITS	318733	MELISSA MANCHESTER'S GREATEST HITS	323758*	Luther Vandross BUSY BODY
316331	RICKY SKAGGS HIGHWAYS AND HEARTBREAKERS	314443	NEIL DIAMOND 12 GREATEST HITS VOL. 2	322099	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK FLASHDANCE
318964	JULIO IGLESIAS	321851	WYNTON MARSALIS JAZZ CONCERTO TRUMPET CONCERTO	325795	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK AGAINST ALL ODDS
322974	GARY MORRIS WHY LADY WHY	323360*	RICHARD PRYOR HERE AND NOW	315655	FLEETWOOD MAC MIRAGE
256255	A CHORUS LINE Original Broadway Cast	321802	JUICE NEWTON DIRTY LOOKS	322032	PAT BENATAR LIVE FROM EARTH
322495	BIG COUNTRY THE CROSSING	323386	Michael Martin Murphey The Heart Never Lies	323374	KENNY ROGERS 20 Greatest Hits
322438	YES 90125	323097	Luciano Pavarotti MATTINATA	325704	MICKEY GILLEY CHARLY MCCLAIN IT TAKES BELIEVERS
325647*	EARL KLUGH Wishful Thinking	318675	PLACIDO DOMINGO My Life For A Song	322107	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK STAYING ALIVE
322968	DAN FOGLERBERG Windows & Walls	319319	MICKEY GILLEY Fool For Your Love	316315	NEIL DIAMOND HEARTLIGHT
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324848	PRINCE 1999	313650	SIMON & GARFUNKEL 393652	318352	JOURNEY FRONTIERS
394841	WARNER BROS.	393652	THE CONCERT IN CENTRAL PARK		
303339	Great American 393330 Rock & Roll Revival	325951	COLLECTOR'S RECORDS 395954	323907*	KIM CARNES CAFE RACERS
322503	ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK 392506 GREASE	322149	THE BEE GEES GREATEST	322172	EDDIE RABBITT Greatest Hits, Vol. II
314294	COLUMBIA JANE FONDA'S 394296 * WORKOUT RECORD	302265-392266	FRANK SINATRA TRILOGY: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE	323899	THE BEST OF THE ALAN PARSONS PROJECT
327213	PLAYBOY JAZZ FESTIVAL	322164	ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK 392167 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER	322198	LARRY GATLIN & THE GATLIN BROTHERS BAND GREATEST HITS, VOL. II
397216	PLAYBOY JAZZ FESTIVAL	392167	WARNER BROS.		
310219-390211	JOHNNY MATHIS COLUMBIA SILVER ANNIVERSARY ALBUM	321026	The Doobie Brothers 391028	323873*	DAVID SANBORN BACKSTREET
398339	ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST CATS	393221	SHIRLEY BASSEY 393223 GREATEST HITS	322180	RICKY SKAGGS DON'T CHEAT IN OUR HOMETOWN
*Available on records and cassettes only					

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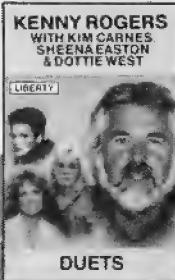
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327262 The Human League EMI HYSTÉRIA	324871* ROCKWELL MOTOWN Somebody's Watching Me	325621* PATTI AUSTIN COLUMBIA LITTLE ROCK	325613 MÄGER SCHON, AARONSON, SHRIVE THROUGH THE FIRE	326686* BRANFORD MARSHALIS COLUMBIA SCENES IN THE CITY	326520 MORE SONGS FROM THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK THE BIG CHILL
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326215 WILLIE NELSON COLUMBIA ANGEL EYES	317180* THE OSMOND BROTHERS ELEKTRA-COLUMBIA	323733 7UP/MINT COLUMBIA/HARVEST CONDUCTS MACHER: ORCHESTRAL MUSIC	320630 QUIET RIOT MCA METAL HEALTH	322867 LACY J. DALTON MCA GREATEST HITS	324269 JOAN JETT EMI THE AGGRESSION ALBUM
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324962* THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND WARNER BROS. GREETINGS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA	323402 CRYSTAL GAYLE WARNER BROS. Cage The Songbird	323410 JOHNNY LEE WARNER BROS. GREATEST HITS	316901 CONWAY TWITTY COLUMBIA CONWAY CLASSICS	323659 PAUL SIMON WARNER BROS. Hearts And Bones	321018 BILLY JOEL COLUMBIA An Innocent Man
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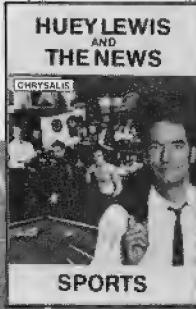
The tapes and records you order during your membership will be billed at regular Club prices, which currently are \$7.98 to \$9.98—plus shipping and handling. (Multiple-unit sets and Double Selections may be somewhat higher.) And if you decide to continue as a member after completing your enrollment agreement, you'll be eligible for our money-saving bonus plan.

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Note: all applications are subject to review and Columbia House reserves the right to reject any application.

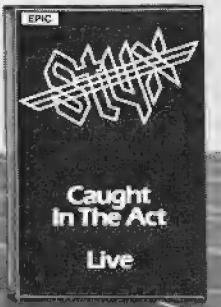
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<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTRY Willie Nelson, Barbara Mandrell, Oak Ridge Boys	<input type="checkbox"/> EASY LISTENING Mantovani Orch., Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis
<input type="checkbox"/> JAZZ Mr. Mrs. Miss (Please Print)	<input type="checkbox"/> POP <input type="checkbox"/> CLASSICAL <input type="checkbox"/> JAZZ

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Larry Pashnick

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE Alan Steinberg on his great article, "Larry Pashnick Is Every One of Us" (June). This was the best baseball article I've read in some time, not only because Steinberg let Pashnick speak for himself instead of paraphrasing him, but also because Larry Pashnick has that rare quality of perspective—on himself and on baseball—and an endearing sense of humor as well. He says that getting to the big leagues is a big deal and achieving personal goals is important, but he manages to do this without coming across smug and self-serving. He clearly relates his struggles to the real-life battles that all of us face. My favorite players always seem to be people like Larry Pashnick—maybe not the best players on the team, but the ones you just know are giving it all they've got. They are fighters—they buck the odds and play on generous amounts of

guts and guile. I cheer for the struggling Texas Rangers, and my favorite is not All-Star Buddy Bell, but a scrappy second baseman named Wayne Tolleson, who came out of nowhere last year to steal 33 bases and hit .260. Now I can add Larry Pashnick to my list. I wish him the best of luck, in baseball and in life.

ELLYN HARLEY
Denton, Texas

THE INSIDE INTERVIEW with George Brett in your July issue was a great story about a great, natural hitter. George Brett is the best hitter since Ted Williams. I've had the pleasure of seeing both these Hall-of-Famers take their cuts, and it's too close to call. I'd walk both of them!

BOB NOLAN
LaPorte, Ind.



George Brett

I THOUGHT "SURVIVING THE Errors" in the Numbers column of your April issue was very interesting. Errors are an

everyday occurrence in baseball and a highly overlooked statistic in the run-scoring records. You've done an excellent job in calling attention to this neglected aspect of the game. Errors lead to unearned runs, which often account for a loss. I'm happy to see your publication making the baseball fan aware of the error impact.

JOSEPH WAYMAN
South Gate, Calif.

HOW COULD YOU PRINT such a one-sided article as "New York, New York" (May)? We were enraged at how author Pat Calabria made the Rangers look like party-hungry playboys, and the Islanders look like saints. He obviously is not up-to-date on the current Rangers team. The Rangers are not driven to games in limousines; they drive themselves—and Mark Pavelich and Tom Laidlaw drive Jeeps. Believe it or not, there also are some married men on the team. The author goes on to describe how the Islanders and their fans hate New York and their fans. If he had bothered to ask any Rangers fans, he would have gotten the same response. You didn't need to print the fact that Mr. Calabria was raised in Long Island. It was obvious.

KATHY FLEMING
MARY ELLEN FLEMING
WENDY HOFFMAN
EILEEN MALLORY
New York City

BILL CHADWICK CAN knock indoor soccer all he wants ("Soccer—Loved and Ignored," July), but the Major Indoor Soccer League, with its glitter,

glamour, and excitement, is the best thing to hit Cleveland in many years.

KEVIN BALLOU
Shaker Heights, Ohio



MISL glitter

I AM BRITISH, HAVE lived here for 10 years, and am 80 years old, so I know a little about soccer. Soccer in North America tried to be too big too fast. With the exception of Pele, too much money was spent on foreign players. Bobby Moore was too old to play English soccer, but got big money to play here. The old saying is, "Take it slow and it will grow." The money people wanted to make money too fast with their soccer teams, and they failed.

ARTHUR R. ADKINS
Oxford, Ohio

IN THE GAMBLING column in your June issue, it states that Jerry Izenberg is an expert in scamology. I would like to know whether Jerry has any literature on the subject of scamology.

WAYNE GETZINGER
Camden, N.J.

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Navy. It's Not Just A Job, It's An Adventure.

By STEVE FIFFER

Tommy John: Still Some Wins In That Old Rebuilt Machine

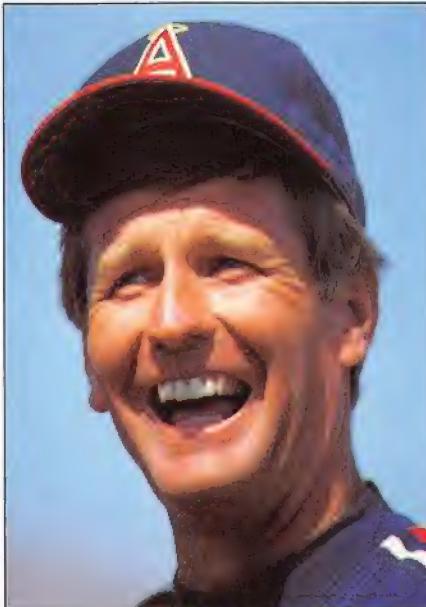
HE HAS REGISTERED MORE shutouts than Sandy Koufax and struck out more batters than Whitey Ford. Only 29 men in the history of baseball have pitched more innings than he has, and only 14 pitchers have started more games.

The numbers are imposing, yet Tommy John, the California Angels' 41-year-old left-hander, appears genuinely unimpressed. "The only statistic that really matters is wins," he said earlier this season. That figure, too, is an eye-opener. John stands fewer than 50 victories short of the magic 300 circle.

Such achievements are all the more remarkable when you consider that John has never been a power pitcher like most of today's other record-breakers—Steve Carlton, Nolan Ryan, Tom Seaver. He has a fastball, but it has never inspired the scouts to cock their radar guns and say, "Go ahead, make my day."

When asked about his fastball, John smiles, then notes that it hasn't gotten any worse than when he signed his first contract with the Cleveland Indians more than 23 years ago. The same cannot be said of his pitching arm, which died 10 years ago this July, when John, then with the L.A. Dodgers, ruptured a ligament in his left elbow. Two months later, Dr. Frank Jobe took a tendon from John's right forearm and reconstructed the useless elbow. It was a surgical first, and John was advised to consider other employment. He refused, embarked upon a torturous rehabilitation program, and was pitching again by 1976.

He helped the Dodgers to pennants in 1977 and 1978, then signed with the Yankees and recorded 20-plus victory seasons in 1979 and 1980. In 1982, dissatisfied with his role on the club, John asked to be traded. He joined the Angels in time to help them reach the playoffs.



'I'm like the tortoise. I just keep plugging along.'

Last season was a disappointment for the talent-laden Angels and for John, who, in posting an 11-13 record, lost more games than he won for the first time since 1971. He entered 1984 determined to turn himself and the Angels around.

INSIDE SPORTS: You're 41 years old. This is your 20th full season in the major leagues. Would you care to share your secret of longevity?

TOMMY JOHN: I'd like to say it was my running or weightlifting, but I think it's just the way I pitch. My fastball is better than people think it is, yet it's not taxing on my arm. Also, since my arm injury, I've thrown almost every day during every season. Even the night before I pitch and the night after, I'll throw 40 or 50 pitches, enough to loosen up and keep the feel of the ball. That in itself has kept me going. The way I feel now, I see no

reason why I can't pitch for another five or six years.

IS: Could you sustain yourself mentally for that long?

TJ: Pete Rose and I were talking about that a few years ago. He said that physically it's easier to stay in shape to pitch than it is mentally. But I really love baseball. I love going to the park. I love going to spring training. And I love getting myself in shape. I like physical work. The only problem I have is the period of time between starts. I wish I could start every day. The in-between time is the tough time.

IS: Didn't you pitch with very little rest early in your career?

TJ: When I was with the White Sox in 1971 and Johnny Sain was the pitching coach, I often worked every three days. I think I made five or six consecutive starts with two days rest. The trend now is to pitch with four days rest, but I prefer three. Actually, that would be easier for me to do at 41 than it was at 28.

IS: What do you know now that you didn't know then?

TJ: When I came up, full of vim and vigor, I thought you could just throw your fastball and curve by anybody. Now I understand pitching better. You don't have to throw the ball hard every time, don't have to throw the curveball as hard as you can.

IS: Is experience the best teacher?

TJ: Yes. You learn this over time. You have to lose some ball games, and you have to be able to digest a ball game. I do a lot of thinking about pitching when I'm out playing golf or driving a car. I always carry a baseball with me. I'll try different grips, so the ball always feels comfortable.

IS: Can you learn much from watching other pitchers?

TJ: Sure. I get a kick out of watching the Baltimore pitchers. Almost all of them throw

what I eventually wanted, because there were people on the ball club, the manager [Gene Michael], who didn't think I could pitch anymore. I said, "If that's the case, you're a poor judge of talent and I might as well leave." Actually, if Clyde King had taken over from Michael earlier, I'd probably still be on the Yankees. Clyde had confidence in me.

IS: Did you refuse when the Yankees asked you to go to the bullpen?

TJ: This is a misconception. A lot of fans said, "Tommy John is spoiled. He won't go to the bullpen." That's not the case. I'd go to the bullpen anytime, if I felt I could help the ballclub. But we had Gossage, and we had Rudy May, who was doing a great job for us out of the bullpen. I couldn't have helped out there, but I felt I was better than two of the people starting ahead of me. I didn't balk at going to the bullpen. I balked at them saying there were other people in the rotation who were better than I was.

IS: You've always stood up for yourself, haven't you?

TJ: Actually, I'm pretty much of a company man. I mean you do what's good for the club. But there are certain times, when you get to be 38, 39, 40, 41 years old, when people judging you are biased against older players. They say they want some young arm that can throw a 95-mile-an-hour fastball. Well, that's fine, but maybe the guy who throws 95 can't win. And the name of the game is to win.

IS: How would you describe your current relationship with Steinbrenner?

TJ: I still consider George a friend. He was fun to play for. He really was. He was a tough son of a gun, though, and you knew if he was going to play you that you better dance to his drum.

IS: What kind of owner is Gene Autry?

TJ: Gene Autry is a great man. He comes into the clubhouse often, asks how you feel, says he's pulling for you. I love that. I've kidded him. I've got a couple of Gene Autry tapes in my Ram Charger and I'm going to learn "That Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine," so I can sing it when he comes in.

IS: So you're happy with the Angels?

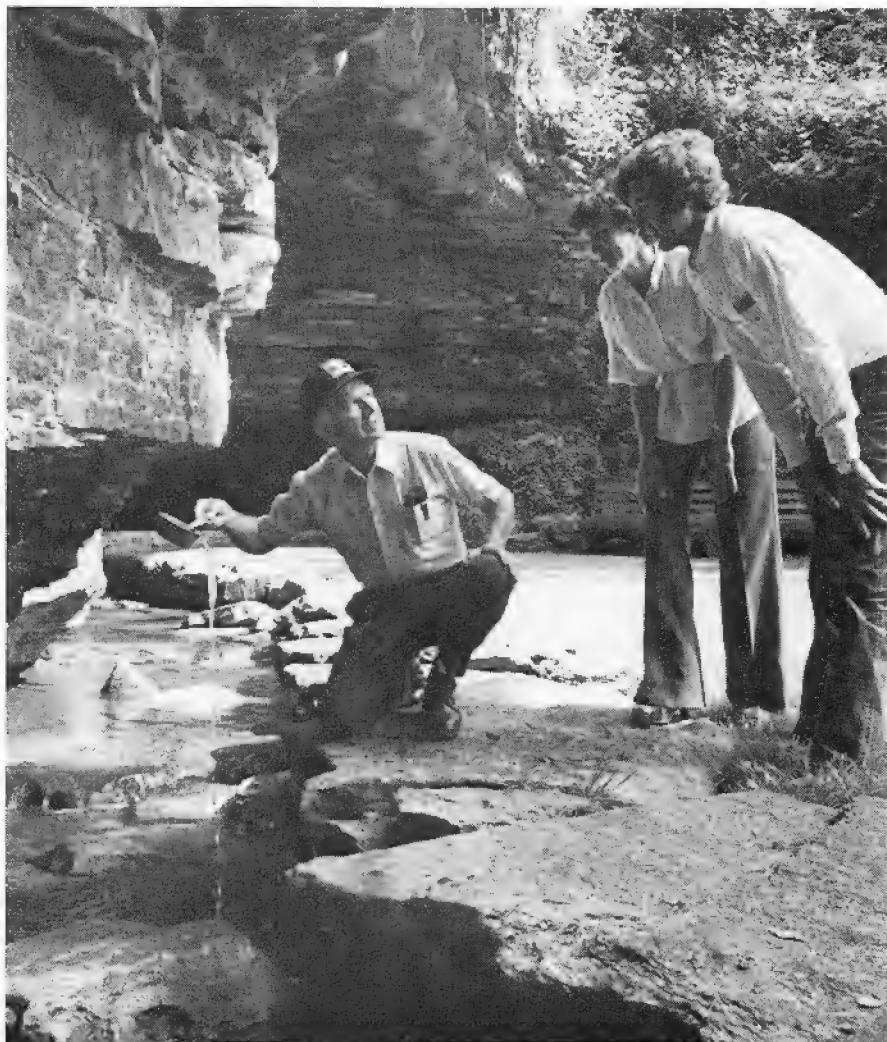
TJ: Coming here was like a breath of fresh air. People in the front office, namely Buzzie Bavasi, felt I could still pitch. I told Buzzie I wanted to win a whole bunch of games for him, win my 300th game as an Angel.

IS: How important are records to you?

TJ: I would like to win 300 games, but that's the only statistic I think is meaningful. Baseball is a game of wins and losses. Innings pitched is probably pretty meaningful, too, but earned-run average doesn't mean much.

IS: Do you know what your ERA is this season?

TJ: No. It's two something. It's in the twos, but I have no idea.



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IS: Back to the Angels. There's a great deal of talent on your club, but you haven't become a dominant force in the league or your division. What happened last year?

TJ: Injuries. You can't expect to win when you have that many players out.

IS: The Yankees have a lot of big names, too, and they've really faltered. Can having so many superstars make it difficult to win?

TJ: No. I think putting a winning club together is like baking a cake. You can't have a cake that's any good if you don't have flour or if you don't have baking powder. There's a recipe for baseball, and the thing is getting the right recipe—the right combination of speed, power, hitting, pitching, defense, bullpen help.

IS: Do the Angels have the right recipe this year?

TJ: If we can stay relatively injury-free, we may win or we may not win. But we're going to be a force to be reckoned with.

IS: The Angels have a quality catcher in Bob Boone. How important is the catcher to you?

TJ: For me or any pitcher a catcher is absolutely vital. I like to delegate authority. If you have a good catcher, you go over the game plan of how you want to pitch and then delegate that authority to the man behind the plate. He can see things the pitcher can't see—watch the batter's feet, watch if the batter is diving after pitches. The catcher can tell me if we've got to come inside more, change speeds more. A lot of times, as a pitcher, I can't tell this. A good pitcher and catcher are like a hand and glove. If it's a nice fit, it's a tough combination to beat.

IS: Do your catchers ever call for the spitter?

TJ: I've been accused of throwing the spitball, but I can truthfully say I can't throw one. In fact, we had a pitching coach when I was with the Yankees—and it wasn't Art Fowler—who told me he thought my stuff was insufficient and that I should go to a spitter. He started to show me how, but it turned out my sinker was better than the spitter I was working on, so I just looked at him and shook my head.

IS: Does it help your game if hitters think you throw the spitter?

TJ: Sure it does.

IS: What about the brush-back pitch?

TJ: You can't throw it anymore. That's one part of the game that has really changed. When I first came up, hitters would dig in at the plate and a guy like Don Drysdale or Bob Gibson would bury them. Now if you come inside, batters want to fight you. A pitcher has to pitch both sides of the plate, and if a batter wants to dive out over the plate, then he's going to pay the price, maybe get hit with a fastball. But that's changing. Now, if you brush back a batter and hit him, you get a warning from the umpire. Come close again

and you and your manager are gone. Baseball's getting more offensive oriented, which is probably for the better.

IS: How do you prepare for a game?

TJ: I read the boxscores, look and see who's hot, who's stealing bases. I go over who's liable to hit-and-run. Then I'll mentally pitch a game to the hitters, determining what I want to do. I'm a big believer in visualization. I visualize what I want to do to a hitter. Every time I throw a pitch in my mind, it's a good pitch. I think that makes the chances of pulling off the pitch in the game much better.

IS: When does the visualization process begin?

TJ: The day after my last start.

IS: Can you tell from your warm-up how you'll pitch once the game begins?

TJ: No. Sometimes I have just absolutely horrible stuff in the bullpen and the catcher will look at you like you're walking the last mile to the gas chamber, and then I'll go up and just pitch the lights out. Then there are other times when you've got tremendous stuff in the bullpen, but by the time you walk to the dugout, towel off, take a drink of water, and walk out to the mound, it's gone. There's no way to know, so I don't fume and fret like I once did.

IS: When you're pitching the lights out, when you're in a groove, can you tell?

TJ: Yeah.

IS: What does it feel like?

TJ: Oh, I don't know. Maybe it's a feeling of confidence that you can throw a strike. And by strike, I don't mean just a strike, I mean my strike, which is a fastball moving down and away, or a curveball breaking in, or a slow curve breaking over the plate. You feel that you can throw those pitches at any time and get any hitter out.

IS: Is it exhilarating?

TJ: No. I mean, maybe it is to some pitchers who are blowing guys away with fastballs. But with me, I'd rather get a guy out on a ground ball with one or two pitches than strike him out.

IS: Is there a way of summarizing your overall pitching philosophy?

TJ: Pitch quickly. Throw strikes. Change speeds.

IS: Any interest in perpetuating the philosophy after your playing days are over? Would you like to stay in baseball?

TJ: I would like to get involved in running a ballclub. Being a general manager. It would be interesting and fun, and force me to be creative. It would be totally different from playing.

IS: If you were a GM, how would you be creative?

TJ: I believe in incentives. If a guy has a good year, he should be paid for it.

IS: How would you determine the incentives?

TJ: Needs. The needs of the team. Everybody is interested in home runs and batting average. To me there are only two offensive statistics that mean anything—RBIs and runs scored. Here's an example. We have a young player named Gary Pettis. He ignites our ballclub. He has to get on base for us, has to steal bases. So he has to draw walks, obviously. I'd make an incentive for him to draw walks, peg an incentive to his on-base percentage. You want a player to say, "Hey, if I do this, I can make a lot of money." And everybody wants to make a lot of money, which is only right.

IS: Any other creative ideas?

TJ: Well, I think there are times when a player just has to get away from the game. If you have, say, a Gossage or a Bruce Sutter, or a guy who's going out every day for you, and he comes to the park with his arm hanging, let him go home. I've seen Lasorda do this. Say, "Bye. I don't even want to see you." You'd be surprised how charged your batteries get by staying away from the game just for a day. Going fishing. Spending time with your family.

IS: Baseball fans probably know more about your family than any other baseball family. Everyone was so concerned when your son Travis fell out of your apartment window. It has been almost three years. How is he now?

TJ: Travis is great. He's playing soccer, playing tee-ball, playing tennis. He's taking tumbling lessons. He's super.

IS: Did that ordeal change your perspective on the game?

TJ: It was 1974 all over again, but this time it was my son instead of my arm. In baseball there's so much pressure to win, to keep your earned-run average down. You're always checking to see where you are in the standings. But when Travis was lying in the hospital near death, this stuff was the farthest thing from me. You start realizing that there are more things in life than wins and losses, complete games, strikeouts. When you have a son or a daughter, you love them more than anything in the world, and when they're lying there, you would give anything, trade anything, sell anything to make them well. But you're powerless. No matter how much money I had or what my status was in baseball, I couldn't do a thing except watch him and pray. That's when you realize how small baseball is in the sphere of things. I'll play baseball as long as I can. I can't think of any other way I'd rather make a living than pitching every five days, or every four days. But there are many things that are far more important. ■

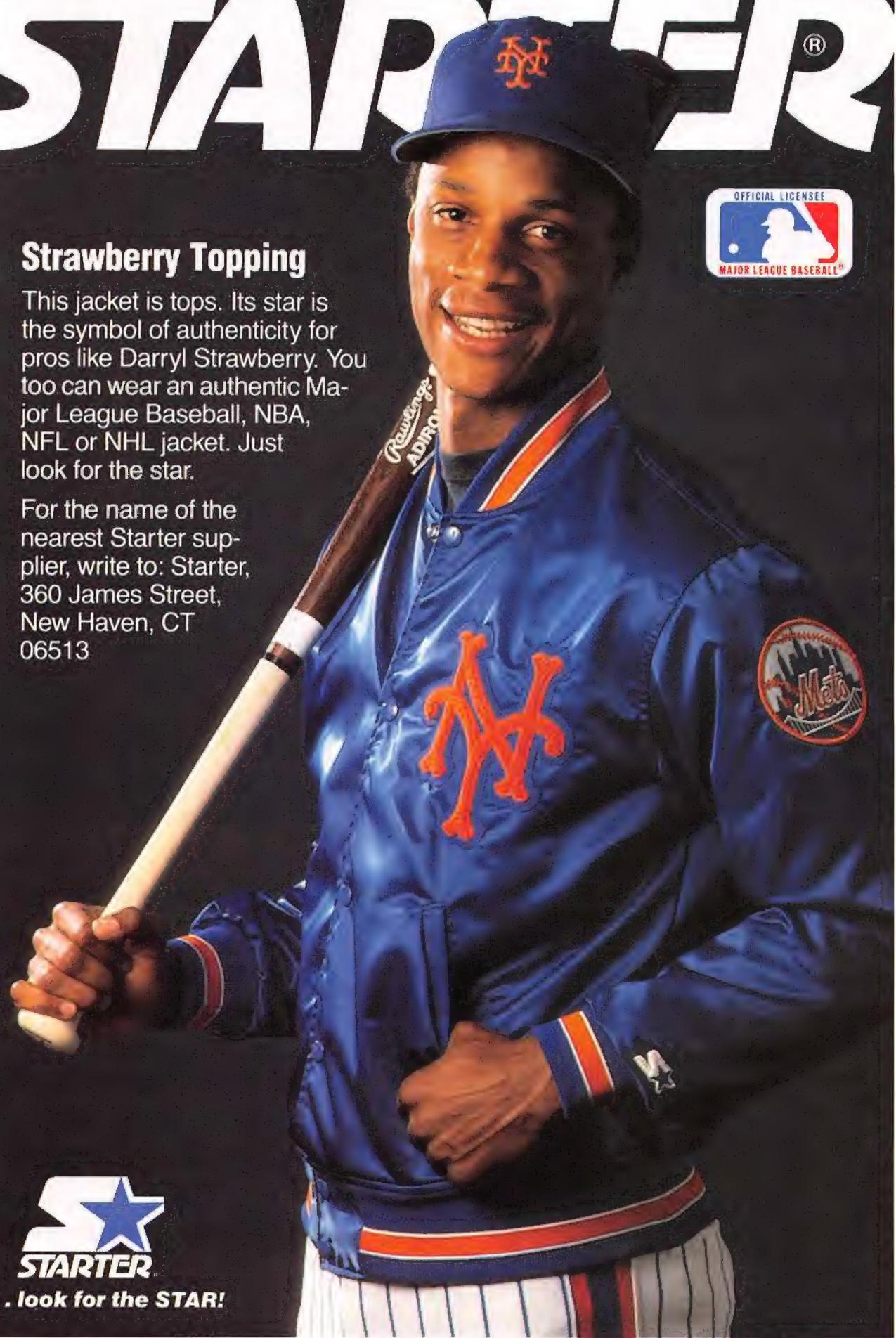
Contributing writer STEVE FIFFER would love to work on only three days rest. His last piece for INSIDE SPORTS chronicled the woes of the Chicago Blitz.

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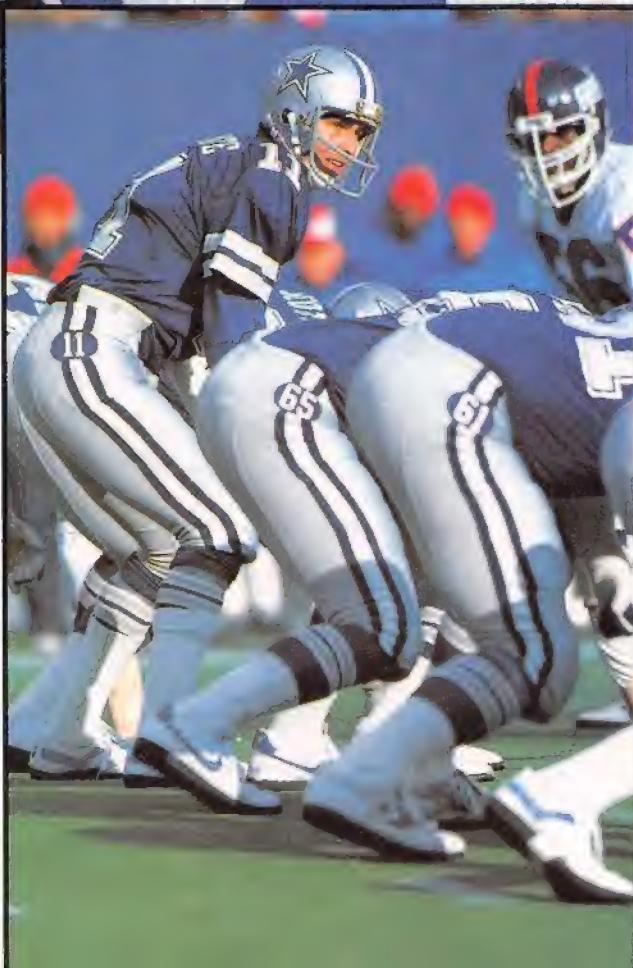
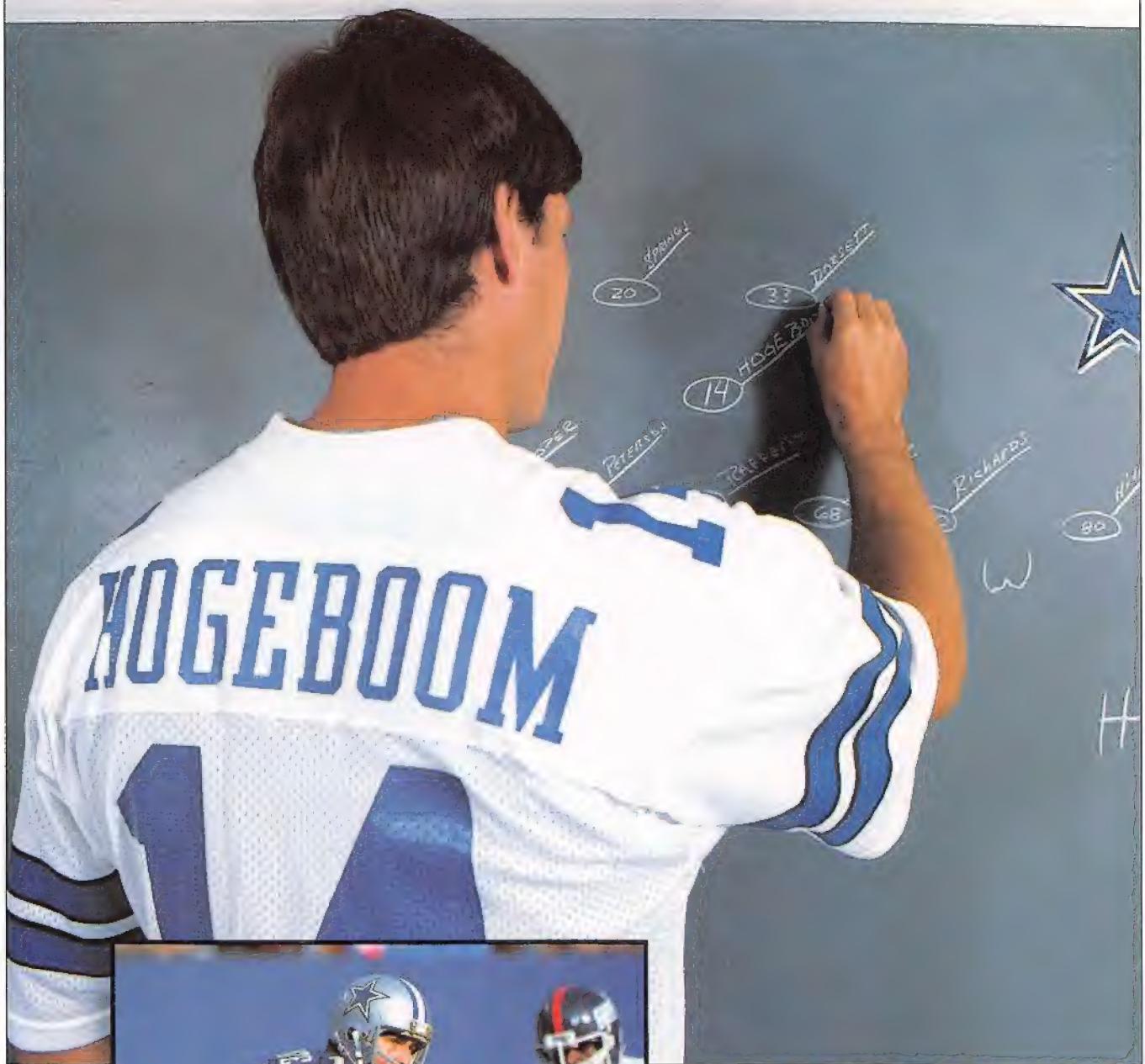
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Many problems face Coach Tom Landry [right] as he enters his 25th season in Dallas. The decision of the year is whether to stick with veteran Danny White or do what the players want: write in Gary Hogeboom as the No. 1 quarterback

Trouble In Big D



By CARLTON STOWERS

TEX SCHRAMM, THE PERSONABLE president and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys, stood at the podium addressing a sizable collection of local businessmen, members of the media, and die-hard fans of the team he has watched over, fatherlike, since being lured away from CBS television a quarter century ago. Enthusiastically, he detailed the season-long celebration the Cowboys have planned for 1984, marking their silver anniversary as members of the National Football League.

The passage of time had erased some of the ringing disappointment of the '83 season, and for the moment, a smile returned to Schramm's face. He was touching on the nostalgic, recalling stories of early-day struggles, of the old Cotton Bowl and Dandy Don Meredith and Bob Lilly, and Tom Landry when he still had some hair. Good times. They always are when you're headed for the top, and know it.

He talked of the five Super Bowls the Cowboys had participated in, and spoke with justifiable pride about the manner in which the once-underdog team, which had gone five long years without a winning season, captured the hearts of a nation and earned the appellation "America's Team." If Horatio Alger had been there, he'd have loved every minute of it.

When, however, the funny stories and

warm reflections were done, Schramm's smile disappeared as he turned to what lies ahead.

"The 1984 season," he said, "will be another very exciting one." Then he paused. "We have appreciated your support in the past and look forward to it again this season. And I guarantee you, you won't be riding a dead horse."

The simple fact that he felt the need to make that promise, to lend assurance that the magical music of Dallas Cowboys success will continue, spoke loudly to the situation the franchise now faces. Not since the mid-'60s, back when the Cowboys were a team of has-beens and never-weres struggling to make the transition to championship caliber, has there been a need to calm public concern. The modern-day Cowboys, in fact, have won so regularly that their fans have become jaded. In Texas Stadium, victory earns only polite applause. Eighteen straight winning seasons and 17 trips into the playoffs will do that to you. Nowadays, it takes a Super Bowl to really get a Texan's blood stirring. It's what they wait for every year. Schramm himself admits that expectations are traditionally higher in the Cowboys camp than most other NFL outposts. "Our fans expect us to go to the Super Bowl," he says. "And we expect it of ourselves. Anything less is failure."

There have now been five years of "failure," a major Super Bowl drought, and the rumbles of the natives have gotten progres-

sively louder. In some camps, in fact, there is the genuine concern that the Cowboys, without their Roger Staubachs and Rayfield Wrights, their D. D. Lewises and Charlie Waterses, no longer have what it takes to win the Big One. It is a theory with some basis in fact.

Three years in a row the Cowboys advanced to the NFC Championship Game, just a victory shy of a sixth trip to Super Sunday, but failed on each occasion. In 1980 it was a Philadelphia Eagles team, coached by a tireless, not-yet-burned-out Dick Vermeil, which turned them away, winning the conference title, 20-7. It was, you'll remember, the same Eagles team that Dallas had defeated handily in the final regular-season matchup that same year. Then came San Francisco, under the guidance of the NFL's newest coaching genius, Bill Walsh. With the final seconds ticking away, Dwight Clark climbed high in the endzone to bring down a Joe Montana pass and the 49ers won, 28-27.

The strike-shortened 1982 season gave birth to something new: the Super Bowl Tournament. Dallas made it to the championship finale again, only to lose to the rival Washington Redskins, 31-17.

The situation, a few began to notice, was getting worse instead of better.

LAST YEAR, LANDRY PUBLICLY promised a more hard-nosed approach. To get the monkey off his team's back, he said, it would take an Olymp-

pian effort on the part of everyone, from the offseason to the Super Bowl goal he had set. The Cowboys danced to a 12-4 regular-season record, opening with seven straight wins. Then they collapsed in the first round of playoffs, losing 24-17 to the Los Angeles Rams.

In Dallas, 12-4 seasons mean little when the games end before the New Year. Great

circulation of 100,000, a weekly syndicated television show, and enough radio shows in and around Dallas to inundate the drive-time public, has, in recent months, been under unfamiliar siege. Once the do-right darlings of the nation's media, the team is now the object of investigative reports.

There have been headlines linking star players to known drug dealers. Megabucks

him in the nose, and promised even worse.

Lordy, even the hallowed Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, once the Cinderellas of the NFL, have been getting their share of bad ink. When one member of the squad, a schoolteacher by trade, ignored the written refusal of her superiors and took time off to make a USO-sponsored trip abroad with the rest of the squad, she was fired. Makes you wonder what the world's coming to.

Toss in the unusual number of retirements, a quarterback controversy that has begun to take on all the shadings of a political battle for delegates, and player concern that Landry has made the mistake of trying to run his team on a double-standard philosophy, and there is good reason to wonder just what is happening down in Big D.

One must also wonder, however, if any of the above-mentioned difficulties—none of them unique in modern-day pro sports—would provide appetizing journalistic fodder if the Cowboys were winning as they did in the past, and as the world expects them to. Or are the problems the reason they aren't winning as expected?

"All this team needs to quiet everyone," says Steve Perkins, editor of the *Dallas Cowboys Weekly* and a man who has followed the team since its dog days, "is to win. None of the things people are talking about would amount to a hill of beans if they hadn't crashed at the end of the season."

Considering the fickle nature of the sports fan, he may be right. Still, the problems are there . . .

The Quarterback Controversy

WHEN ROGER STAUBACH, most sainted of all Cowboy players, announced his decision to retire at the end of the 1979 season, leaving behind a legacy of come-from-behind wins, two Super Bowl championships, and the unquestioned respect of his fellow players, the shoes left to be filled were bigger than life-size.

But Danny White, who had spent a couple of seasons in the World Football League, then four years in Dallas as the recognized heir apparent, was anxious to try them on. Since taking over as the Cowboys quarterback, White has (1) never failed to direct the team into the playoffs, (2) been selected to the Pro Bowl, (3) erased all of Staubach's club passing records, and (4) ranked as high as No. 1 on the NFL's all-time passing list. But he hasn't advanced the team to the Super Bowl.

What's worse, he hasn't convinced many on the team that he is the man capable of doing so.

When veteran tight end Billy Joe DuPree, one of those pro sports rarities who seldom



Dorsett eats up the ground in annual 1,000-yard chunks.

expectations are the inalienable right of those who follow the Cowboys. Perhaps the most highly publicized, widely followed team in pro football history, the Cowboys live in a glass house. And suddenly people are throwing stones at it—and pointing to an ever-widening variety of reasons for the downfall.

The Cowboys image, shined and spit-polished by a three-man public relations staff, a company-owned newspaper with a

owner Clint Murchison Jr., who bought the franchise in 1960, sold the team recently, causing some to wonder if, in fact, ill health and the need to settle some estate business were his only reasons for getting out of football.

A high school student in suburban Plano filed charges against quarterback Danny White, alleging the generally soft-spoken Mormon pulled him off the road, punched

was outspoken or outrageous during his 11 years with the Cowboys, announced his retirement, he volunteered that perhaps it was time for a quarterback change if the team was to return to the lofty heights. There is a guy waiting in the wings, Gary Hogeboom, who many feel is the man for the job.

In a recent confidential polling of the majority of the players, in fact, the *Dallas Morning News* insisted that 20 of 34 felt Landry should hand the reins to Hogeboom and see if he can pull the team out of its current dilemma.

It is not, however, the crash-and-burn results of the most recent season that have fueled the White vs. Hogeboom controversy. That, rather, is merely the straw that broke the camel's back. The problems can be traced to the in-fighting that became an ugly sidebar to the NFL Players Association strike of '82.

As the strike lingered, testing the patience of many athletes, White was among the first on the Cowboys to go public with his concerns. He pointed out that he was no longer paying union dues and that Ed Garvey, who was negotiating for the Players Association, was leading them all into oblivion.

On several occasions, White met with Tex

Schramm about negotiations, then traveled to New York himself to learn what, if any, progress was being made. Such moves were judged by many of his teammates and other players around the league as being out of bounds.

"In training camp that year," says wide receiver Drew Pearson, "we met and de-

In Landry's view, a starter has to lose his job like a boxing champ has to be KO'd.

cided that [fullback] Robert Newhouse would be our lone representative. If there was anything to say about the strike or the negotiations, it was to come from him. It worked out fine until Danny decided to go to New York himself and get involved. We [the team] were disappointed for the simple reason that he was stepping on Robert's toes, when, in fact, Robert was doing an excellent job for us all."

It was there, then, that the leadership of Danny White began to unravel. John Bunting of the Philadelphia Eagles realized it even before the Cowboys did. "It will be tough for Danny to ever regain the respect of his fellow players after the way he handled himself during the strike."

While the 57-day strike did seriously damage the leadership abilities of the man who was once looked on as the Cowboys' next Prince Charming, it took a dismal day in RFK Stadium to bring the frustration of his teammates to full light.

Battling the Washington Redskins for the right to advance to the Super Bowl, once the abbreviated season had resumed, White was having little success. With 19 seconds remaining in the first half, he was KO'd by Dexter Manley and went to the sidelines for the rest of the day. Enter Hogeboom, untried but eager. On the Cowboys' first two possessions of the second half, he directed impressive touchdown drives. While the Cowboys would come up short, Hogeboom's 14 completions, 162 yards, and two touchdowns would not go unnoticed. Shortly after the season was over, in fact, Landry reflected on the Washington game and said that because of Hogeboom's emergence the quarterback position had become very competitive.



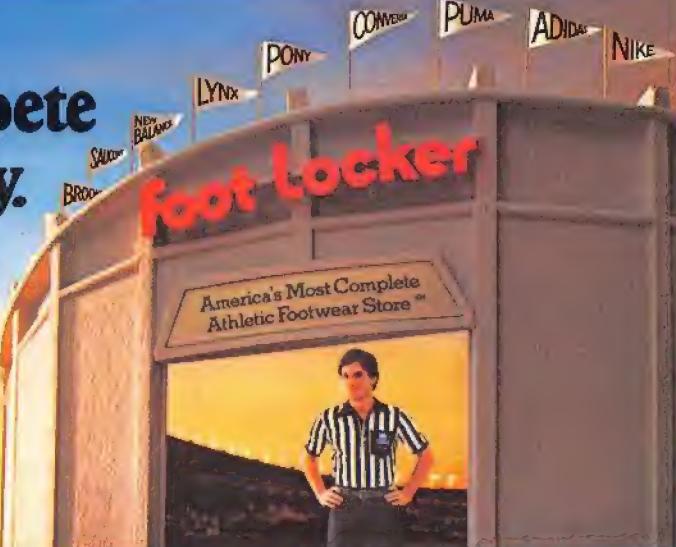
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Not that the Dallas coach was willing to send his two field generals into camp on an even basis, however. In Landry's scheme, a starter has to lose his job much like a heavyweight champion has to be knocked unconscious. White, in Landry's estimation, was far from never-never land.

Only after the playoff failure of the recent season did Landry himself become involved in the White vs. Hogeboom flap.



Bethea and Martin, who were mentioned in drug rumors, are gone.

"Gary will compete for the job this year and he'll put a great deal of pressure on Danny White," said Landry. "Danny's taken a great deal of heat in the past couple of years because of what we've failed to do, but I certainly don't think it is all his fault."

"I don't put much stock in what players are saying during the offseason. I really think it has little to do with what they're going to be thinking in a few months when they're out there competing, trying to win games."

"On the other hand, the quarterback posi-

tion is very critical because the man there has to have the confidence of the team, and me. And because of that, if and when you do decide to make a change it had better be the right move, or you've really gotten yourself in big trouble."

What that tap dance means is that Landry is far from ready to tip his hand on the matter. Yes, he'll say, White is a capable quarterback who has done well in seasons

Before being traded to the Houston Oilers after eight years with the Cowboys, outspoken Butch Johnson put in his two-cents worth. "I said before the season began last year that if Danny White didn't get us to the Super Bowl, Tom would be forced to take a hard look at Hogeboom when training camp begins again. I think now he has to."

Which, of course, would be fine with the former fifth-round draft pick out of Central Michigan. "I know there are a lot of people on the team pulling for me," Hogeboom says, "and I'm going to do everything I can to start. But if Landry chooses Danny, there isn't much I can do about it. For the best of the team, you have to go with the person who is chosen. If the players don't back the guy playing, it won't do the team any good."

White, stung by the criticism, agrees. "I realize I have to do whatever it takes to earn the respect and support of the players," he says. "There's no question that you have to have that support to be successful. If I don't have that support, Gary should get the job."

"But I haven't had anyone come up to me and tell me they were upset with me. So, I'm not going to worry about it. What I'm trying to do is start this season with a new attitude. But I'll keep the same goal I've had since the day I became the starter. Regardless of what I might do, I won't be satisfied until I put a Super Bowl ring on everyone's finger. That, I think, is the measure of a great quarterback. You look back at some of those—Fran Tarkenton is a good example—who achieved a great deal statistically, but you never hear them mentioned when the really greats are talked about. That kind of conversation is reserved for the quarterbacks who win Super Bowls."

Double Standards and Other Squabbles

EARLY LAST SEASON, BUTCH Johnson, angered over the fact he had again failed to gain the starting spot that he felt he had earned, took an impromptu one-day vacation, traveling to Mexico to think out his situation. He missed team meetings and a practice and did not bother to advise anyone he would be absent. Yet when he returned, life in the Cowboys camp went on as usual. There was no fine, no punishment. The "get tough" policy that Landry had been preaching since the early days of training camp went down in flames. That Johnson got off scot-free recalled times past, when an angry young running back named Duane Thomas marched to his drummer, while all others on the team whistled Landry's tune.

The handling of Thomas, Landry says, was one of his proudest achievements in the coaching profession. That the other players

past. At the same time, he sees Hogeboom as a bona fide NFL quarterback, capable of taking a good team all the way.

Some Cowboys players, meanwhile, don't care to dance. "Personally," says All-Pro defensive back Everson Walls, "I would rather have Hogeboom in there. And that's pretty much the feeling of the five or six guys on the team I hang around with. But how's coach Landry going to tell a guy making a half million dollars to go sit on the bench or just hang around to do the punting?"

realized the sullen young man was a special case, to be handled in a special manner, was gratifying. There was, however, no gratification to be derived from the manner in which he dealt with Johnson.

Oh, sure, Landry had made it clear he would no longer tolerate the endzone "California Quake" that had become Butch's touchdown trademark, and he had made a personal pact with the outspoken receiver that if Johnson would agree to a gag rule, he would promise to trade him before another season passed. But in the minds of most of the players, Landry disrupted the all-for-one, one-for-all scheme he had been trying to nurture, when he failed to reprimand Johnson for going AWOL.

As the season went on, there would be other signs that there were dents in the Cowboys armor. Running back Tony Dorsett, who just a year earlier had bought cowboy boots for members of the offensive line, criticized the blocking he was getting. The ongoing verbal battles among wide receivers Drew Pearson, Tony Hill, and Johnson grew to a point where they stopped speaking to each other. It was during the '82 season that Johnson had snubbed both Hill and Pearson in full view of a sellout crowd in Texas Stadium, refusing a handshake following a touchdown. "Butch and I always had our problems," Hill says, "but until that moment I had never expected they would carry over to the field. He criticized me for several years and I said nothing about it. There was a lot of talk that I couldn't make the catch over the middle a few years ago. That all came from Butch. I just tried to avoid getting into it with the guy."

It was lineman Howard Richards, who, after surveying the number of recent departures, made a point that was not lost on any Cowboy watchers.

Without names being mentioned, he said, "I think there is a good chance we can get things off to a positive start this season. Maybe we can forget the negatives. I think the fact we've lost some disruptive forces will give us a chance at a fresh start."

Retirements and Escapes to the USFL

TIME WAS WHEN THE GRAND plan of the fabled Dallas Cowboys scouting department was to bring bright, young junior executives into the business, polish them, and have them ready to step in when the man ahead of them in the pecking order decided to call it a career. Transitions occurred in the Cowboys offense and defense without anyone really noticing. When a Lee Roy Jordan said he'd had enough, a Bob Breunig stepped into his middle linebacker spot and was in the Pro



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Bowl in a couple of years. Such is no longer the case.

It was 1975 that the Cowboys' draft last yielded a bumper crop. Only the emergence of such recent free-agent finds as cornerback Everson Walls and safety Michael Downs has warded off even louder criticism of the Dallas scouting department.

The results are now being felt, and depth, once a Cowboys trademark, has become a problem—one that was complicated by the departure of seven players, three of them starters. While there is reason to believe Cowboys efficiency won't be greatly affected by any single loss, the fact that back-up strength will be lacking could add to their headaches.

Four back-up players—wide receiver Johnson, No. 3 quarterback Glenn Carano, back-up middle linebacker Bruce Huther, and defensive lineman Larry Bethea (the latter three now playing in the USFL)—are gone. So is former Pro Bowl tight end Billy Joe DuPree, despite Landry's urging to stay for another season. B.J. said thanks, but his concrete business needed him more.

Then there were two retirements that were neither expected nor completely explained. First, starting offensive tackle Pat Donovan sent word that he was giving up the game and taking a real job after nine NFL seasons and four trips to the Pro Bowl. No formal announcement, no last trip to the practice field to clean out his locker. What first appeared to be a contract negotiation ploy became one of the quietest retirements of a key Cowboy player in history.

Harvey Martin, who once shared Super Bowl MVP honors with teammate Randy White, led the team in quarterback sacks, and earned virtually every plaudit the game could offer him, had not played well in recent seasons. But despite personal problems and growing criticism from coaches and the press, he managed to hang on to his starting job last season. And according to those who monitor offseason workouts, he was vigorously preparing himself for a 12th season.

But, one afternoon in the early spring, Martin stopped by the Cowboys office to advise public relations director Doug Todd that he would like to announce his retirement to the press the following day. Only days earlier he had talked of the "challenge" of preparing for another season. At age 33, he had felt he could make a comeback.

Landry did, too, and tried to persuade him to reconsider his decision. Harvey said his mind was made up; he had an excellent job opportunity as a salesman. His new boss, alas, first heard of Martin's decision to retire and devote full efforts to the business world on the car radio.

In the days to come, rumors circulated that Martin, who had endured a troubled life

of lawsuits, bankruptcy, and tax problems, was asked to submit to a drug test. That, the story went, was the reason for the sudden retirement.

Drug Concerns

FANS," SAYS SCHRAMM, "want their players to be heroes; they want them to be model citizens. Anything less is a disappointment to a lot of people."

Two years ago, at a time when the nation's

Landry has warned the team that spot drug checks could be started this season, and that the penalty will be harsh.

press seemed to have a new story about professional athletes and drug abuse almost daily, the Dallas Cowboys were swept into the headlines. Five members of the team—running back Tony Dorsett, wide receiver Tony Hill, defensive end Larry Bethea, fullback Ron Springs, and Harvey Martin—were mentioned during an investigation of a Dallas drug dealer. Though none was ever charged with any wrongdoing, the rumors of a drug problem within the Cowboy ranks began. Across the nation there were suggestions that the red, white, and blue image of the Cowboys was gone forever. Maybe, one writer suggested, they should be renamed South America's Team. Or how about the Cocaine Cowboys?

None of which was funny to either Schramm or Landry. Both made it clear they would have no sympathy for those who involved themselves in drugs, and insisted a close check on such matters would be kept by a former FBI agent named Larry Wansley, who had been hired as the team's security supervisor. "We made up our minds some time ago," says Schramm, "to adopt an aggressive attitude toward dealing with drugs on our team. We've let everyone know that we're taking a hard line on the matter."

While the initial story of team members being mentioned in testimony during the aforementioned drug trial would die away, Martin was unable to outrun the rumors. When Landry sent him to the Hazelden Foundation in Center City, Minn., to look into the drug-rehabilitation facilities there,

"to evaluate the program and bring back a report for the rest of the players," eyebrows went up. Landry continued to insist that Harvey had not gone there for treatment, however.

Quick to admit he knew little about the problem of drug abuse, Landry has devoted considerable study to the matter lately. He has warned members of the team that spot checks could be instituted this season. "To me," he says, "we have a problem if any athlete is involved in drugs. I've told our players that we will police the situation if we have any reason to be suspicious. There are a lot of people, myself included, who are fed up with the drug stuff. But it keeps coming up. So we have to do whatever we can to control it.

"I like to think our players recognize the fact we are doing everything we can to help them with any kind of problem they might have. I still don't know as much as I should about drug abuse, but I'm learning fast. I just wish I'd learned more about it sooner."

The Manpower Problems

WHILE MOST OF THE PUBLIC attention will focus on the ongoing quarterback battle, the Cowboys can look to a number of areas where repair work is needed if they are to climb back into legitimate contention for the NFC title this year.

For starters, something must be done about a defensive secondary that ranked a pale 27th against the pass last season. In a search for the solution, Landry has indicated a fruit-basket turnover might take place during the team's training camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Dennis Thurman, entering his seventh season, may take leave of his right cornerback job and move back to free safety, where Michael Downs has held forth. Downs, in turn, would move to strong safety, there to battle with Dextor Clinkscale and second-year man Bill Bates for the starting job. Ron Fellows, a youngster with potential, and Rod Hill, one of the Cowboys' No. 1 draft selections who has yet to prove his worth, will compete for Thurman's vacated spot. "We've got to develop a competitive situation in our secondary," Landry says, "and hope that we can return to a higher level in preventing the big plays."

Walls, an All-Pro in his first three years in the league, is the only member of the secondary whose job is secure.

Then there is the problem with the linebackers, a group collectively criticized for its lack of aggressive play. Many, however, blame the Landry system, the Flex, rather than the men playing it. "I have always felt I could move into the Pittsburgh Steelers kind

of defense and play their kind of middle linebacker," says Dallas middle man Bob Breunig, "but it won't work here. In the Flex, you wait for the play to come to you. Sometimes it is hard to do, but all you have to do is look at the success we've had with it."

Still, there was great enthusiasm among members of the Cowboys staff when Billy Cannon Jr., a youngster who gained a reputation as a hell-bent kind of linebacker while in his senior year at Texas A&M, was the team's first-round draft selection.

While Martin's retirement was surprising, it won't likely have any great effect on the Cowboys front four, inasmuch as he was making little contribution last year, despite holding a starting job. Don Smerek and Jim Jeffcoat, both promising young players who have gained experience on pass-rush downs, will battle for the right to fill Martin's right-end spot, and work alongside talented Randy White, John Dutton, and Ed (Too Tall) Jones.

It is, then, defense that is the greatest concern for the Cowboys as they ease into the '84 season. On the other hand, there are offensive problems to be resolved—something new for the multiple-formation unit that regularly ranks among the most potent in the league.

Donovan's left-tackle spot will be ably filled by fourth-year man Howard Richards,

perhaps the most legitimate candidate among the young players for future stardom. And, of course, there is regular 1,000-yard rusher Dorsett to fuel the running game.

But for the first time in a number of years, Dallas has some questions in the receiving department. The retirement of DuPree leaves only Pro Bowler Doug Cosbie as an experienced tight end in an offense that often sets up in a two-tight-end alignment. Since there is no immediate replacement for DuPree, Landry is toying with the idea of using running backs Timmy Newsome and/or Ron Springs at the position in certain situations.

An offseason automobile accident, which hospitalized veteran Drew Pearson with a lacerated liver and a broken clavicle, has rearranged things at wide receiver. With Johnson now gone, it appears speedster Doug Donley will move in to start along with Hill, at least until Pearson is able to work himself back into shape.

For Pearson, the leading receiver in Cowboys history, the upcoming season offers new incentive, and he insists he will return to the lineup before the season is too far gone. His younger brother, Carey, was killed in the accident. Drew, the driver, had gone to sleep at the wheel while returning from an off-season exhibition basketball game. "Losing

my brother," he says, "is something I'll never overcome. But I've tried to put things into perspective and deal with it the best I can. Making a comeback this year is important to me."

It is an attitude Tom Landry hopes is shared by his entire team. "I have to think we've all got a bitter taste over the way things went last season," he says, "and I hope that will be a motivating factor as we regroup this season. What we have to do is re-establish our level of confidence."

Doing so, he says, breeds winning. And winning washes away a great many troubles—like quarterback controversies, personal differences, and public probings designed to answer the now-wearisome "What's wrong with the Cowboys?" question.

And it would put to rest the "dead horse" issue.

"We're calling 1984 the Silver Season," says Schramm, "and we want it to be something special. I think it will."

With that, the smile returns to his face. ■

CARLTON STOWERS, a free-lance writer from Dallas, knows the Pokes inside and out, but he doesn't start any rumors. His last piece for INSIDE SPORTS profiled Olympic cyclist Rebecca Twigg.



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NFL

Football '84

AFC East

By KENT PULLIAM

IT WAS THE JETS' TURN. WHY leave the Big Apple out of the most recent trend in the NFL. Since the 1979 season, it has been a rule in the league that at least one of the teams to play in a conference title game bombs the next year.

The Jets, so close to a Super Bowl champi-

1. Dolphins

2. Patriots

3. Colts

4. Bills

5. Jets

onship in 1982, obliged last year with a 7-9 record and a tie with the Colts for last place in the AFC East.

"We're starting over again," said second-year coach Joe Walton, who has made several changes in the team he took over last season. "We are no longer the team that was supposed to go to the Super Bowl. We have to have our players come into camp with a new dedication. When I took over, it was tough to make changes. If I had to single out the biggest mistake I made last year, it was the decision to stand pat."

If things don't turn out better in 1984, New York fans may think the biggest mistake Walton made was taking over. Since the end of the 1983 season he has:

1. Traded away the team's starting quarterback, Richard Todd.
2. Traded away a starter on the defensive line, Kenny Neil.
3. Watched his starting right cornerback, Jerry Holmes, defect to the USFL.
4. Traded away a pair of part-time starters, Abdul Salaam and Stan Blinka.

5. Need there be more?

"I've read the quotes from some players since the trades about being shaken up, not feeling a sense of security, and thinking they might not be here even if they play well," Walton said. "You know what I say to that. It's about time!

"I've also read where some people say we're rebuilding. We're not rebuilding, we're remodeling. We need to get more young people pushing [veterans], a competitive training camp. If we get a lot of players out of the 'comfort zone' we can improve."

The first improvement will come when they find a quarterback to replace Richard Todd, the Jets' starter for seven years. Todd accounted for all but 264 of the Jets' 3,742 gross passing yards last year. But 1983 wasn't particularly kind to him. After ranking as the third-best quarterback in the AFC during 1982, Todd fell to 10th last season. Despite playing seven more games, he passed for only four more touchdowns than the year before, and threw 18 more interceptions than he did in '82.

"We thought it would be better for the Jets at this point in time and for Richard Todd," Walton said at the time of the trade that sent Todd to the Saints in exchange for a first-round draft choice. "We committed ourselves to Ken O'Brien in the future, and this will speed up his process."

O'Brien will be battling seven-year veteran Pat Ryan for the job, and Walton says he will go with the quarterback with the hot hand.

"Right now I'm trying to prepare them

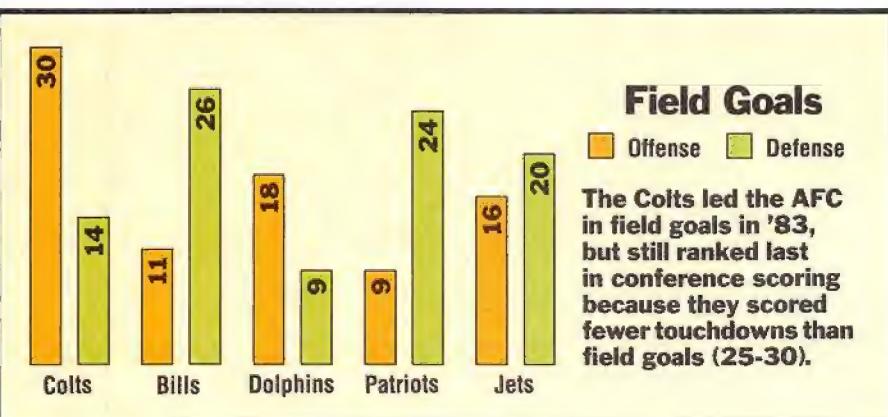
both as No. 1 quarterbacks," Walton said. "I would like to go into the season where if one of them isn't comfortable, the other one is there. Whoever is playing well at the time will be playing. We are pleased with the way Ken has grasped the offense and showed the strong arm and poise that is needed to be a top-flight NFL quarterback. Although he didn't get a lot of on-the-field work last year, we observed enough in practice and preseason to see that the potential is there.

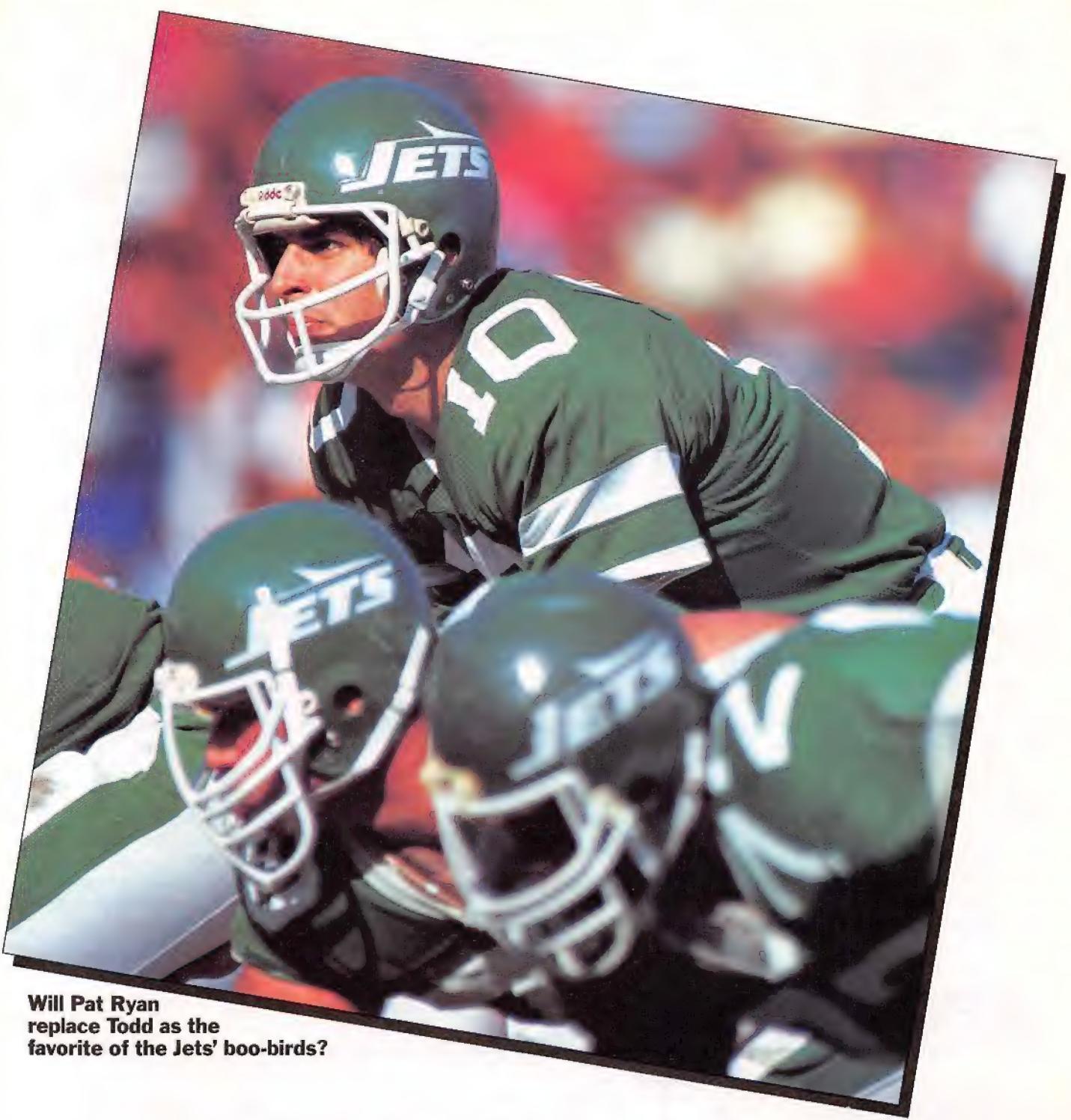
"We feel that Pat has the potential to be a starting quarterback, and his playing time should increase this year. If Pat continues to improve, we won't hesitate to call on him at any time."

That problem solved—and it won't be as easy as saying it is solved—the Jets defense must be bolstered. It ranked 13th in the NFL, but 23rd against the rush. There will be at least two new starters in that defensive lineup, with Neil gone to the Chargers and Holmes to the USFL.

The line still is the strength of the Jets defense. Mark Gastineau and Joe Klecko both played in the Pro Bowl following the 1983 season—Klecko at tackle, after already having played in the game as a defensive end. Walton has not decided whether Klecko will remain at tackle or move back to his right-end position, though first-round draft choice Ron Faurot may have some impact on that.

"Joe has been an All-Pro at both positions and is comfortable at either spot," Walton said. "He's truly a great football player and definitely our defensive leader. Mark is the





**Will Pat Ryan
replace Todd as the
favorite of the Jets' boo-birds?**

premier pass-rusher in the NFL [19 sacks], and last season he developed into one of the better defensive ends against the run. It's hard to say that a great player like Mark improved, but we feel that he made great strides in improving his overall play."

The Jets' other first-round draft choice was defensive back Russell Carter of SMU. He will be tried at the cornerback spot vacated by Holmes, but probably his best position will be safety. The Jets' other draft choices, center Jim Sweeney and tight end Glenn Dennison, both enter problem areas. Regular center Joe Fields missed a good deal of playing time with injuries last season, and

tight end Jerome Barkum is approaching his 13th season. Thoughts about future replacements must be twinkling in New York heads.

The AFC East team that did not fall victim to the next-season slump was the Dolphins, and they again have to be considered the favorite in this division. Quarterback Dan Marino will see to that. He became a starter in the sixth game of 1983 and finished the season as the highest-ranked quarterback in the AFC and the first rookie quarterback ever to be selected for the Pro Bowl. He missed the Pro Bowl because of minor knee surgery, but there are no complications for the 1984 season.

"Dan Marino proved that he had everything that we were looking for when we made him our No. 1 draft pick," said Dolphins coach Don Shula. "After he was given the opportunity, he performed beyond everyone's expectations."

The Dolphins traded away deep threat Duriel Harris, but expect third-year wide receiver Mark Duper to provide that dimension. Duper was the second-leading receiver on the team and accounted for 10 touchdowns, as well as a 19-yard average per catch. Andra Franklin was the team's leading rusher with 746 yards, and Tony Nathan will take on a bigger role because of the off-

season death of David Overstreet.

The Dolphins' big problem is the defense. Although it ranked seventh in the NFL, there are some weak links—particularly at linebacker. The line is solid, needing only backup help. Defensive end Doug Betters and nose tackle Bob Baumhower both were starters in last year's Pro Bowl. But the linebackers . . . Except for a couple of previous tragedies, the Dolphins might have the best group in the NFL. Larry Gordon died of a heart attack during the summer of 1983, and Rusty Chambers was killed in a car accident in 1981.

Bob Brudzinski turned in the best performance of his career, but A. J. Duhe suffered injuries and had offseason knee and shoulder surgery; Earnest Rhone had a subpar year because of injury and illness; and Charles Bowser is an effective pass-rusher, but is not yet particularly strong against the run.

To combat these problems, the Dolphins drafted linebackers Jackie Shipp of Oklahoma and Jay Brophy of Miami in the first two rounds. The secondary is solid, with the Blackwood brothers patrolling at safety. The Dolphins also have three cornerbacks they are comfortable with, William Judson, Gerald Small, and Don McNeal.

What can you say about the Colts that hasn't already been said, with the midnight ride and what-all. Frank Kush has them going in the right direction—and I don't mean west. After an 0-8-1 start in the NFL, Kush put together a 7-9 second season.

The draft has been good to the young Colts. Despite losing quarterback John Elway to the Denver Broncos, the Colts got more than enough in return, rookie guard Chris Hinton making the Pro Bowl as well as

being voted to the All-Rookie team. Linebacker Vernon Maxwell, the Colts' second choice in '83 also made the All-Rookie team. By the end of the season, the Colts were starting four rookies—defensive tackle Steve Parker and kicker Raul Allegre in addition to Hinton and Maxwell.

Curtis Dickey had the best season of his four-year career, ranking fifth in the AFC in rushing, with 1,122 yards. He also caught passes for 483 yards. Mike Pagel holds down the quarterback spot, though Mark Herrmann will challenge this year with a full training camp under his belt.

This year's rookie crop also should contribute, No. 1 draft choice Leonard Coleman should move into a starting spot at cornerback, and guard Ron Solt of Maryland—another No. 1 choice—can play opposite Hinton. The second- and third-round choices both are defensive tackles, Blaise Winter of Syracuse and Chris Scott of Purdue.

Up in Buffalo, the shuffle is on to find a running back to replace Joe Cribbs, the AFC's fourth-leading gainer with 1,131 yards last season. Cribbs, now departed to and sometimes from the USFL Birmingham Stallions, gained all but 605 of the Bills' rushing yards last season. With him gone, the Bills used two of their first five draft choices to select running backs—Greg Bell of Notre Dame in the first round and Speedy Neal of Miami in the third.

Joe Ferguson had an off year in 1983, and the departure of Cribbs won't help. Wide receivers Jerry Butler and Frank Lewis are coming off down seasons, so the Bills drafted San Jose State wide receiver Eric Richardson in the second round.

But the Bills defense should be more than enough to keep them in contention in the

East. Nose tackle Fred Smerlas is simply the best in the business. He keys the Buffalo defense—though rookies Rodney Bellinger, a defensive back from Miami, and defensive end Sean McNanie of San Diego State could have an impact.

The New England Patriots go as quarterback Steve Grogan goes. Last year he was playing the best football of his career, until he fractured the fibula in his left leg during the 12th game. Through those 12 games, however, the Patriots were only 6-6. Rookie Tony Eason started the final four games and the Patriots kept the pace, finishing at 8-8.

The rushing attack is one of the best in the game and is built around the talents of Tony Collins, the AFC's sixth-leading rusher, who gained 1,049 yards last season. He was voted to the Pro Bowl. He runs behind the "Here's the beef" line, keyed by John Hannah.

The defense is led by the linebackers—among them Steve Nelson—and the secondary. Three No. 1 draft choices, Raymond Clayborn (1977), Rick Sanford (1979), and Roland James (1980) patrol the defensive backfield. But their effectiveness is hampered by the lack of an outstanding pass rush. The Patriots had 39 quarterback sacks, but except for Julius Adams, with eight, none of the linemen were consistently effective rushing the passer. Outside linebacker Andre Tippett was the Pats leading sacker with 8½ quarterback sacks.

The cornerstone of the Pats' draft is wide receiver Irving Fryar of Nebraska. Fryar was the first selection in the entire draft, and along with Stanley Morgan, he gives the Pats a pair of speedy receivers. Ed Williams of Texas will provide more depth at linebacker, and Jon Williams will spell Collins.

AFC Central

1. Steelers

2. Oilers

3. Browns

4. Bengals

THERE ARE NO PAT HANDS IN this division's poker game. Coaches—a pair. Quarterbacks—three of a kind. First-round draft choices—more than a full house. The winning hand may turn on the strength of a sore-armed quarterback who has played only one quarter in a year and a half; the pass-rush abilities of a revamped defense that barely missed the playoffs in 1983; or one of three new quarterbacks in the division.

The man—and team—who could end up with all the chips at the end of the game, however, may already be rolling in them. When the Houston Oilers signed the owner of the W. Moon Chocolate Chippery stores to a cool \$6 million, five-year contract in

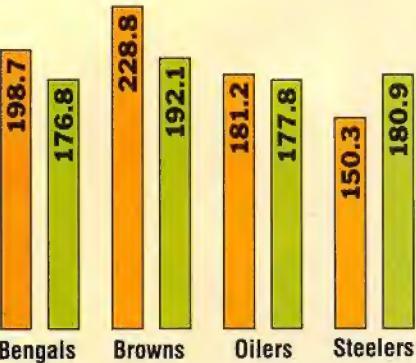
February, they may have bought themselves a winning hand.

At the very least, the Oilers won't have to bluff their way through 1984 like they did through much of 1983.

"I have a lot of confidence in my ability," said Warren Moon during a press conference at which it was announced that the Oilers had won the sweepstakes to sign him. "I've been a winner all my life. I don't see why it should stop now."

Indeed. In Moon, the Oilers may have found the spiritual leader they haven't had since trading Dan Pastorini to the Raiders and letting Bum Phillips slip away to New Orleans.

"Warren can't do anything by himself, nor



Passing Yards Per Game

■ Offense ■ Defense

This division may be shaky at quarterback entering '84, but each team is strong against the pass. Last year, all four AFC Central teams ranked among the top 10 in the NFL in passing yards allowed per game.

can I or any other player," said Hugh Campbell, the Oilers' new head coach. "But to have a quarterback of his ability is obviously going to bring out the talents of the other players, too. It just makes us that much stronger."

Making the Oilers a quarterback stronger normally wouldn't be significant. A 2-14 team doesn't turn around and win a division title by osmosis. But the AFC Central is in a state of flux. The defending champion Pittsburgh Steelers would have been the odds-on favorites if Terry Bradshaw had been able to play. He set Steeler records in offseason stress tests, but his surgically repaired elbow couldn't hold up to daily throwing.

Without Bradshaw, the Steelers will have new quarterback David Woodley or injury-prone Mark Malone. In Cleveland, Paul McDonald is taking over for the departed Brian Sipe. Cincinnati still has incumbent Ken Anderson, but the Bengals will be adjusting to new coach Sam Wyche, which brings you full circle back to the Oilers.

"I think it [a quality quarterback] can redirect your team," said Campbell of Moon's impact on the Oilers. "It can make your team 'turn a corner,' to use an old coach's term. Turn it around, maybe not. But more than any other position the quarterback has so much to do with how the other players look.

"My hope and expectation is that at some point during this coming season it will be obvious that we are a better football team than we were a year ago. They [Oilers players] need to believe things will go right instead of assuming they are going to lose each week. He [Moon] can do that much, but not much more by himself."

Moon's record stands on its own legs—without any of the hype that surrounded his tour of America to pick a team. Aside from Jim Kelly of the USFL Houston Gamblers, no other quarterback in professional history has passed for 5,000 yards in a season; Moon has done it twice. He played on five Grey Cup championship teams. Sure, it was the CFL and not the NFL; the Grey Cup, not the Super Bowl. But a look even further back presents the same view. When he signed to play college football at the University of Washington, the Huskies were coming off a 2-9 season. By 1978, Washington was in the Rose Bowl with Moon at quarterback, and the Huskies defeated Michigan.

"There is a big difference in the reading of the defenses [in the NFL], but not a big difference in the skill of throwing the ball to a receiver on the run or throwing it to where a defensive man can't get it," said Campbell, himself a veteran of the CFL, where he coached Moon for those five Grey Cup years.

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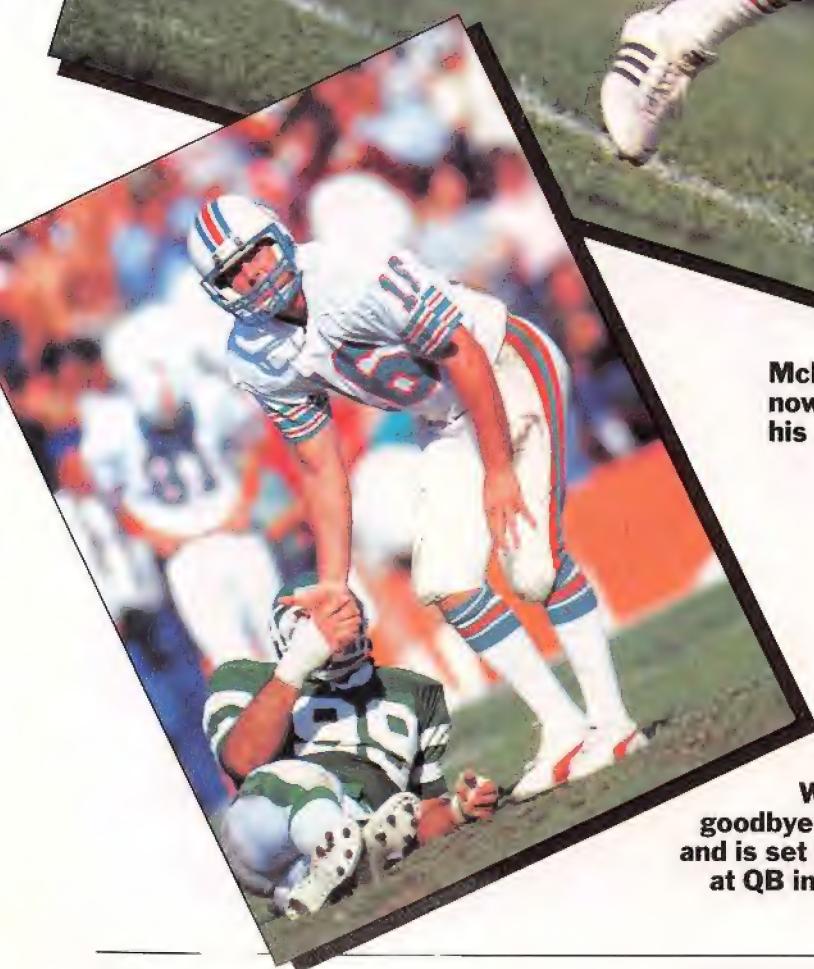
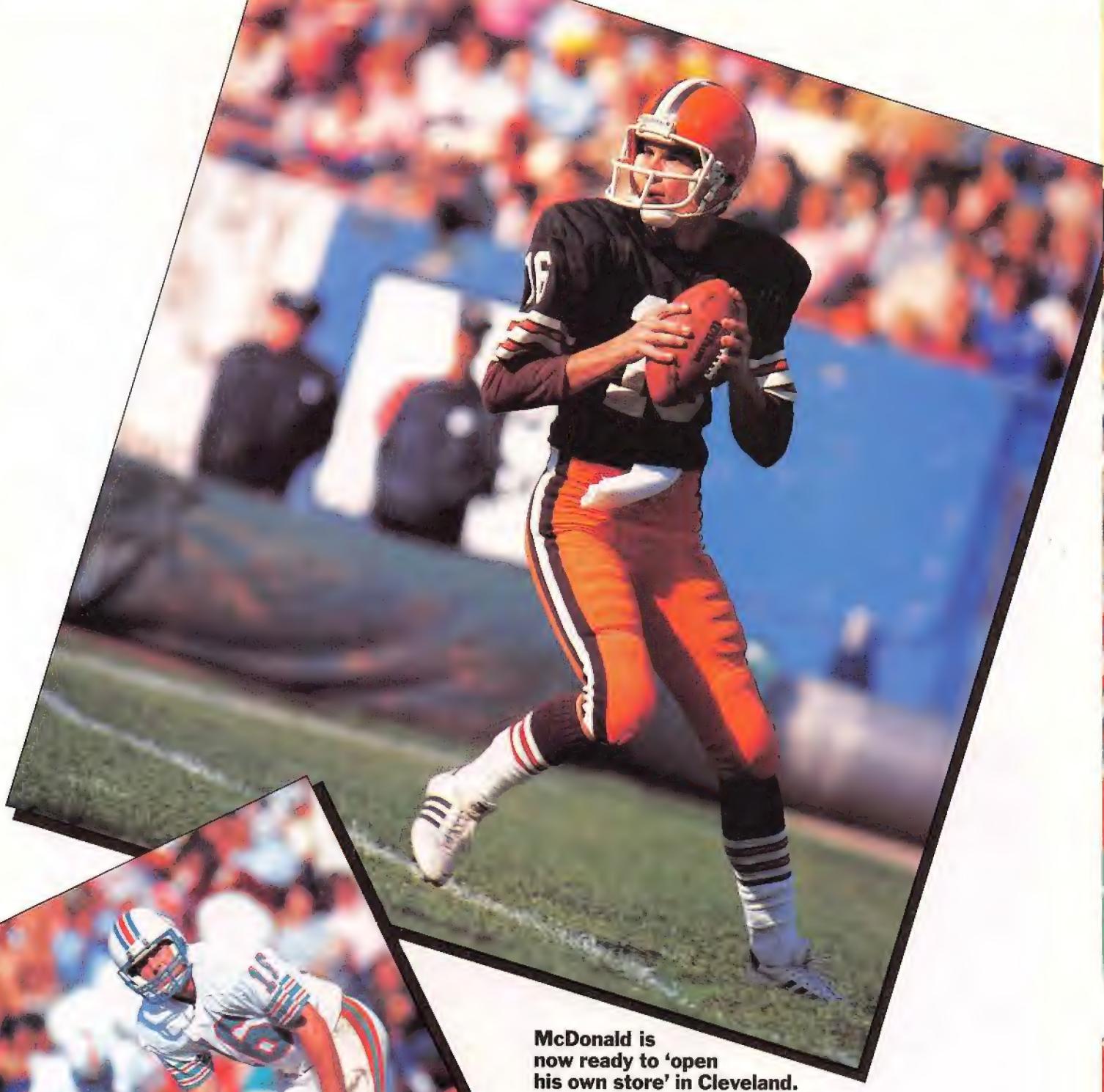
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**McDonald is
now ready to 'open
his own store' in Cleveland.**

**Woodley said
goodbye to the East,
and is set to take over
at QB in Pittsburgh.**

with the Edmonton Eskimos. "That skill will carry over. The hard part for a quarterback is the learning part, learning the defenses. Luckily and fortunately for us he is quite intelligent, so that those things come more naturally to him than they do to some people."

"That doesn't mean that he'll have it right away. I would expect him to be much better his second year than his first."

He already has made believers out of the Oilers players, however. He looked impressive in the team's minicamps. According to offensive coordinator Kay Dalton, Moon has picked up the Houston offense more quickly than Dalton expected him to. He also made a believer of former Houston defensive line coach Joe Galat, who now coaches the Montreal Concordes of the CFL.

"Moon reminds me of a quarterback I coached at Memphis of the WFL—Danny White," Galat said last November. "People said Danny couldn't play in the NFL because of the caliber of competition in the WFL. Danny proved them wrong. White and Moon have similar athletic skills, although Warren has a stronger arm."

"Warren was a rollout quarterback at Washington, and when he started out in Canada he was a little impatient. Because he has such a gun for an arm, he didn't have real nice touch. Now he does. He'll stand in the

pocket under pressure. He doesn't mind taking a hit. He's a pinpoint passer. He won't have any problem reading NFL defenses, because we play the same combination man-zone coverages in Canada."

When the Oilers signed Moon, Campbell was extra careful not to ruffle the feathers of his incumbent quarterbacks Oliver Luck and Gifford Nielsen. Moon will have to win the job, though it will be easier now that Nielsen has retired.

"The reason I was so guarded in my statements when he originally signed was that the other players had not seen him," Campbell said. "I don't have to be near as guarded now that they have seen him in camp. I don't think anyone is questioning anything now. But when he originally signed, I think it was important that everybody realize the coach was going to play whoever had the best chance to win."

"The only concern that ever went through my mind—and it was more positive than negative—was Warren and I being at the same place again. I immediately calculated that both of us had abilities where we could carry our own weight, and with time we would have a chance to demonstrate that. The hard part is, before people know us they make the assumption that one of us is here because the other is."

Whether Moon can make a difference in Houston depends on a number of things. The Oilers, with the addition of tackle Dean Steinkuhler in the first round of the NFL draft, have a solid young line that should be able to protect Moon. Others are No. 1 draft choices Mike Munchak (1982) and Bruce Matthews (1983) at guards, and No. 2 Harvey Salem (1983) at one of the tackles. Eight-year veteran David Carter is the starting center.

Earl Campbell still runs the ball, but for the offense to be really effective, wide receiver Butch Johnson must play effectively opposite Tim Smith. After years of frustration in Dallas, Johnson will get a chance to put up or shut up.

Defensively, the Oilers are no more sound than they were last year, when they ranked 22nd overall and last against the rush. Both No. 2 draft choices are defensive players, end Doug Smith of Auburn and safety Bo Eason of California-Davis.

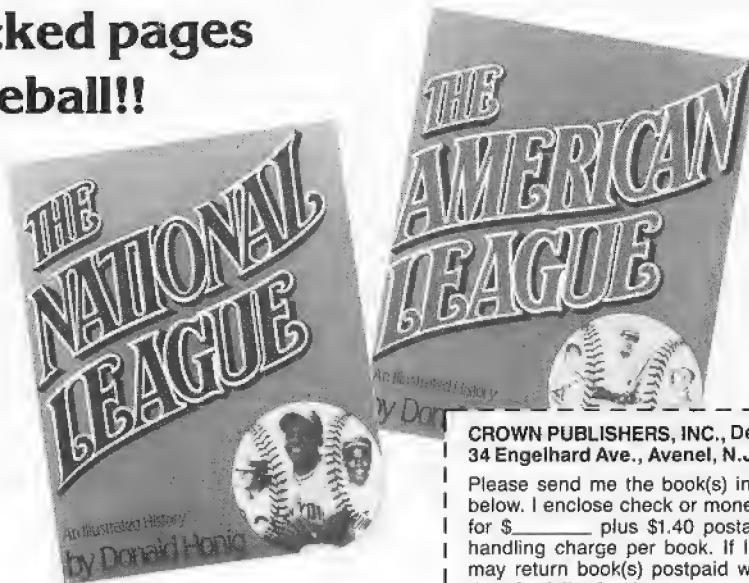
The Steelers remain the favorites, however, even though Bradshaw was unable to revive his arm after surgery in March 1983. The Steelers offense has to get more big-play production from wide receivers. Calvin Sweeney led the team with just 39 catches, and the Steelers ranked 27th in passing. Running back Franco Harris almost certainly

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will become the leading rusher in NFL history, because he needs just 363 yards. But he must be more effective during the second half of the season, during which he gained just 397 yards last year after 610 in the first eight games.

The 1983 Steelers were carried by the defense, and inside linebacker Jack Lambert shouldered more than his share of the load, earning Pro Bowl honors for the ninth straight year. Right cornerback Mel Blount retired after 14 years, and will have to be replaced. And the Steelers still will miss the impact of No. 1 draft choice Gabe Rivera (1983), who was paralyzed in an auto accident last season.

Cleveland made several offseason moves to remedy a situation that left them a tie-breaker out of the playoffs. The Browns' 9-7 record made them the only 9-7 team not to reach postseason play.

The Browns acquired defensive end Carl

Hirston from Philadelphia to get some pass-rush pressure, and used their first two draft choices on defensive backs Don Rogers, a safety from UCLA and Chris Rockins, a cornerback from Oklahoma State.

McDonald will have the quarterback job to himself. Browns coach Sam Rutigliano says: "I have no questions about whether the Browns can succeed with McDonald. He's a proven winner and we're excited about what he can do for us. The apprenticeship is over. It's time for him to open his own store."

He'll open it with a couple of new wide receivers to throw to. The Browns traded for Duriel Harris from the Miami Dolphins and drafted Bruce Davis of Baylor in the second round. They hope to relieve some of the load carried by Ozzie Newsome.

The Bengals had perhaps the best draft of any team in the NFL, but that was no surprise; three No. 1 draft choices will do that for a team. The Bengals took a pair of

defensive players first, linebacker Ricky Hunley of Arizona and Pete Koch, a tackle from Maryland. If winning begins with the defense, the Bengals should be in good shape, because the two will be fine additions to a defense that ranked No. 1 in the league last season. The only problem spot is at cornerback, where Ken Riley retired.

Offensively, the Bengals begin with quarterback Ken Anderson, who holds every passing record in the Bengals book. He no longer will have tight end Dan Ross to throw to, and only one more season with Cris Collinsworth, but he still should be effective. Fullback Pete Johnson was traded to San Diego for James Brooks, who will give Anderson more speed and a better receiver out of the backfield. The top two offensive draft choices were tackle Brian Blados of North Carolina, with the third first-round pick, and quarterback Boomer Esiason of Maryland, in the second round.

AFC West

IT WAS A SCENE STRAIGHT FROM "Star Wars." Pyrotechnics everywhere, long-range bombs. No sooner would Dan Fouts—or later in the game Ed Luther—launch one ICBM from the San Diego side of the line than Bill Kenney of the

1. Raiders

2. Chargers

3. Seahawks

4. Chiefs

5. Broncos

bound. This conference, with the Chargers and Chiefs throwing on almost every down, was dominated by a pair of runners during the 1983 season.

"You have to have a running attack," said San Diego's guru of offense Don Coryell.

Two teams did—and eventually they ended up in the AFC Championship Game, in which the Raiders and Marcus Allen beat the Seahawks and Curt Warner.

Nowhere—except perhaps with the Los Angeles Rams, where another rookie running back blossomed—is the impact of a runner more evident than in Seattle. The Seahawks emerged from their also-ran shell for the first playoff appearance in the team's history. Warner, the AFC player of the year, as voted by his peers, merely led the conference in rushing with 1,449 yards in 335 carries.

"Certainly, to be a contender you have to have somebody who can come in and run it," said Broncos coach Dan Reeves. "To control the ball, first of all you have to have a good defense, and you have to be able to run the ball. Ideally you'd like to have a big guy with speed and quickness, which some of the teams have now with [Earl] Campbell, Marcus Allen, and [William] Andrews—those types of players."

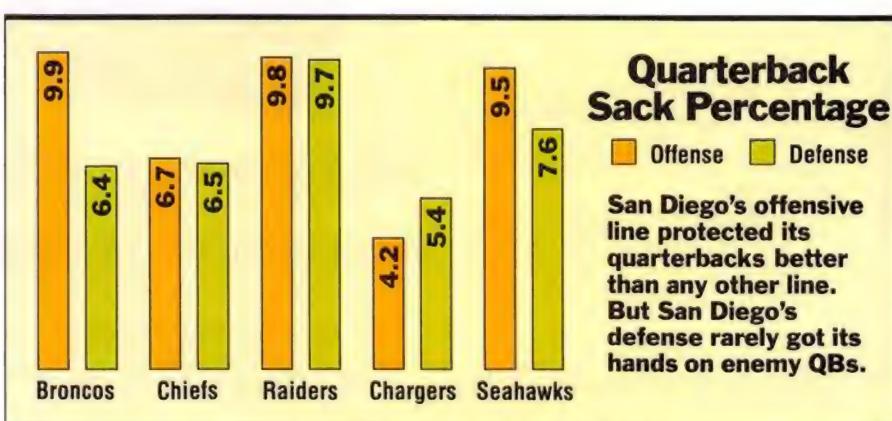
"Look at a team like Seattle," Reeves went on. "A dominating player like Warner comes in and makes them a contender right away, more so than anything else."

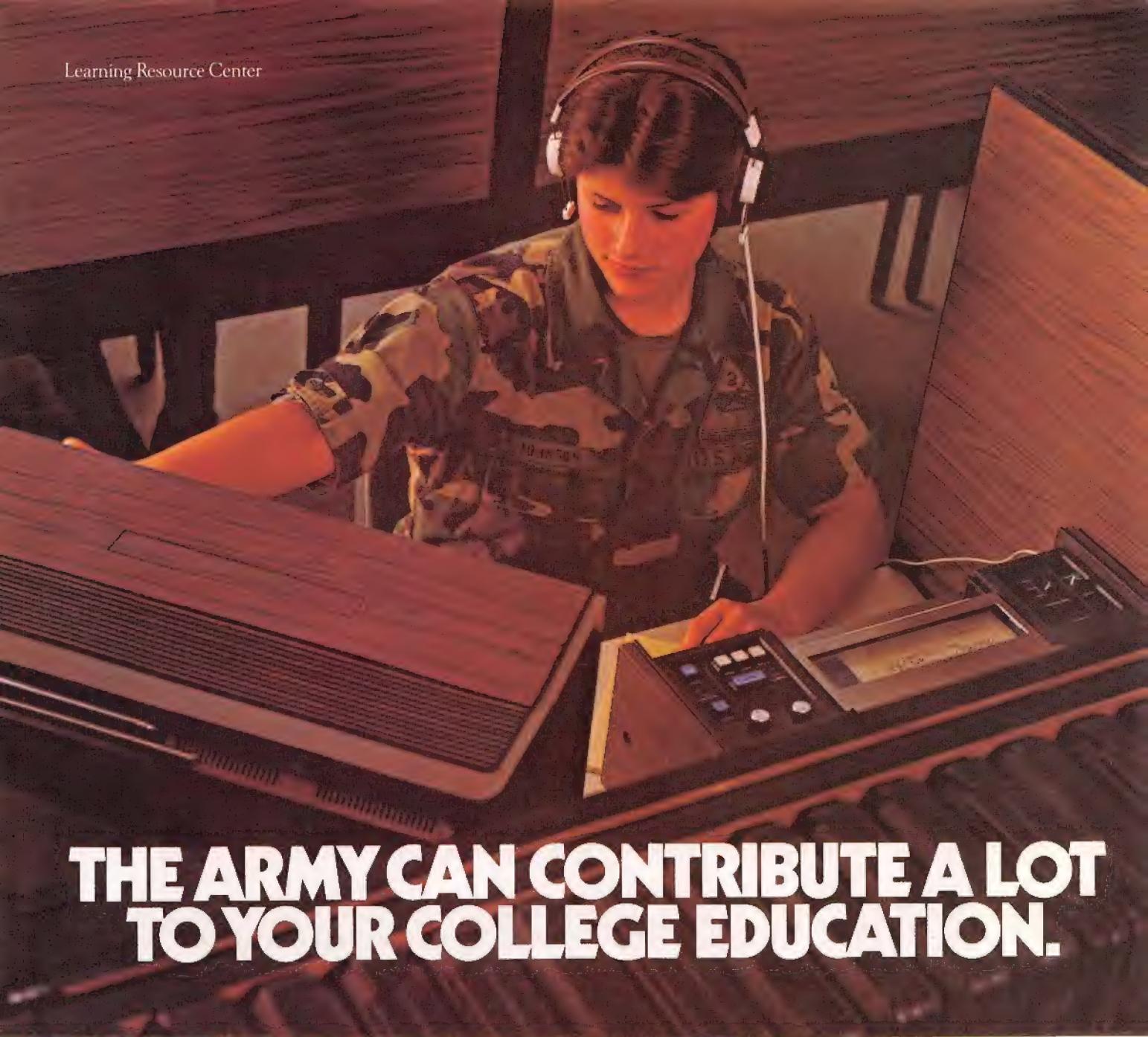
Warner indeed became the running back Seahawks head coach Chuck Knox could build around. Knox traded up in the draft to ensure that he would be able to draft Warner, and the rookie from Penn State did not disappoint him. In what has to rank as one of

Chiefs would launch a retaliatory strike from the other.

No détente here. Two of the NFL's premier offenses were in a shooting war in Week 15, slugging it out in a 41-38 thriller.

The irony was not lost on anyone in the AFC West, however. The top two passing offenses in the AFC were playing for nothing more than honor—what there is of it in the midst of a losing season. The other three teams in the division—the Raiders, Seahawks, and Broncos—were playoff





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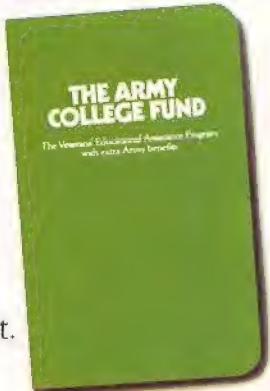
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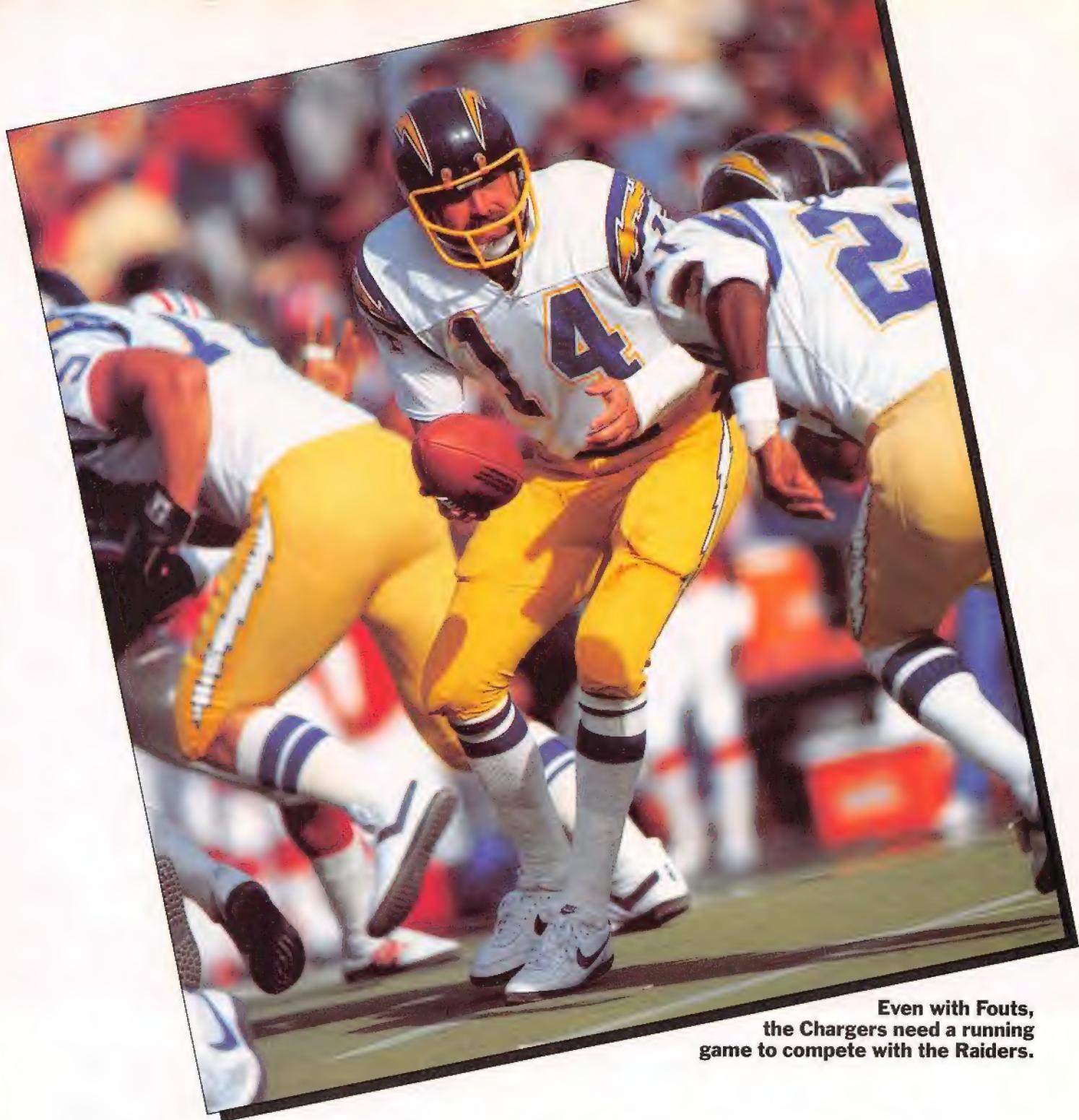
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**Even with Fouts,
the Chargers need a running
game to compete with the Raiders.**

the understatements of the year, Knox said, "Curt Warner was everything we thought he would be when we drafted him."

Warner's first carry in the league went for 60 yards, and he rushed for 100 yards or more seven times during the season. His best game was a 207-yard effort against the Chiefs in the 51-48 overtime victory that almost assured the Seahawks of their playoff spot.

While Warner was making headlines in the Pacific Northwest, the Raiders were getting another workmanlike performance out of Allen, who is arguably the best all-around

running back in the NFL. Allen finished the season with 1,014 yards rushing on 266 carries. He caught 68 passes for another 590 yards, attempted seven passes and completed four—three for touchdowns. He scored 12 touchdowns—nine rushing, two receiving, and one on a fumble recovery in the endzone.

As good as Allen was in the regular season, however, he was awesome in the playoffs. He gained 121 yards in the Raiders' 38-10 victory over the Steelers, and came back in the AFC Championship Game with a 154-yard effort against Warner and the

Seahawks. In the Super Bowl he was the most valuable player for his 191-yard performance, which included four Super Bowl records set and two tied.

"Marcus Allen peaked at the right time for us," said Raiders coach Tom Flores of the running back who has sparked the Raiders to regular-season records of 8-1 and 12-4 in his two seasons in the league. "I don't think I have ever seen anyone have a better playoff season. He averaged 150 yards on the ground."

"But one of the things you don't realize about Marcus is that when he doesn't have

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the ball, he's blocking downfield for whoever does. He's a tremendous blocker and a great receiver and an all-around player."

Reeves can attest to the impact Allen has had on the Raiders. The Broncos were looking for a running back out of the 1982 draft, from which Allen came into the NFL. They not only considered Allen the best running back on their draft board but the highest rated player in the draft.

"I cried every time someone passed him up," said Reeves, whose Broncos had the 21st pick of the draft. "We had beaten them twice the year before [the Raiders had a 7-9 record]. Even though you couldn't count on them getting that many injuries again, at least they weren't going to be that good. Then all of a sudden they get the guy we thought was the best player in the country, and they are back in there."

"They were a team that tried to big-pass you and control the ball running it. At the time they had Kenny King, but he was not the control runner. Marcus was an ideal back for them."

And how. He was the AFC Rookie of the Year in 1982. The Raiders won the Super Bowl after the 1983 season, and there is no reason to think they won't be in the thick of it again.

Although Allen and Warner may set the

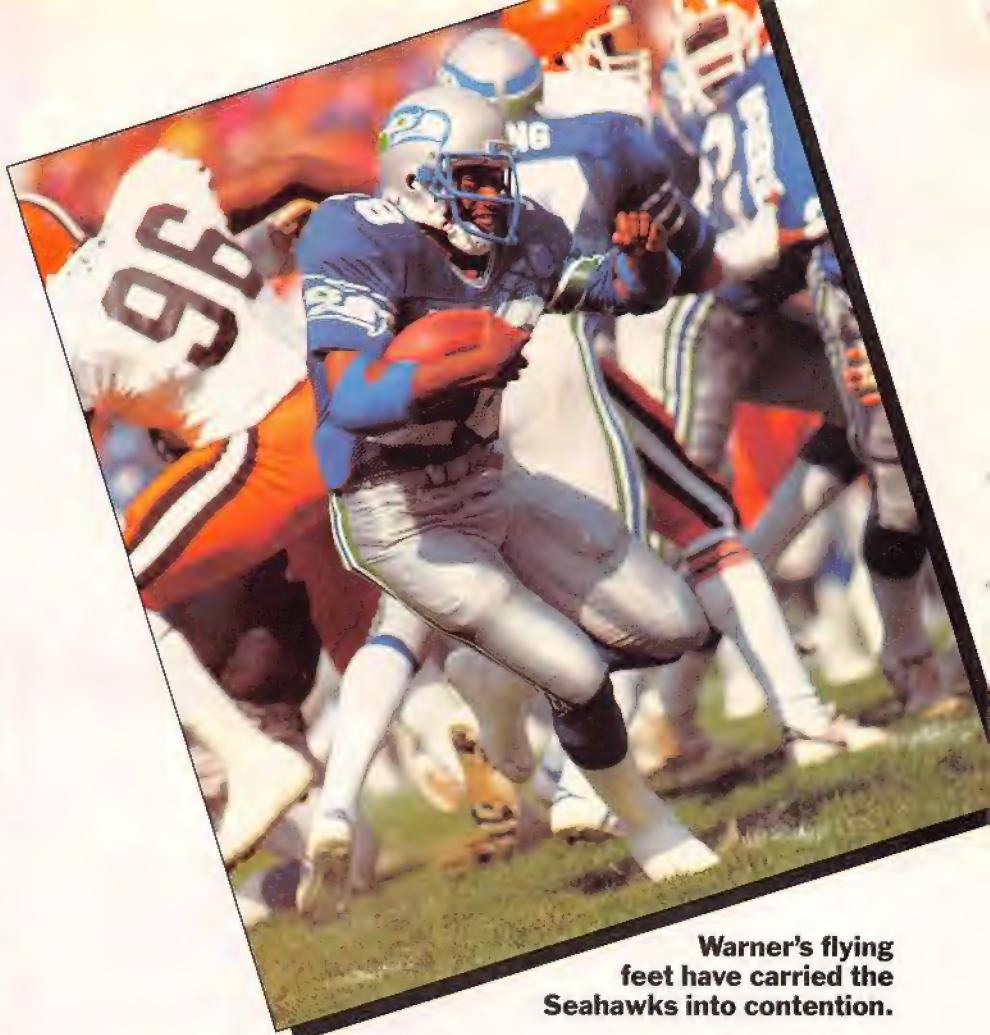
pace for their team's offense, they are not the whole story in the AFC West. The Raiders, in particular, have an outstanding cast, including the most dominating defense in the NFL.

Already an outstanding unit, the Raiders became a smothering coverage team midway through the 1983 season, when Mike Haynes joined Lester Hayes at cornerback. The entire cast is coming back. Defensive end Lyle Alzado, the spiritual leader of the line, talked about retirement and going out on top, but he changed his mind. Howie Long is an All-Pro in the Raiders line. Linebacker Ted Hendricks will be back, along with another Pro Bowler, Rod Martin.

"You can't look anywhere," said Coryell of weaknesses in the Raiders defense. "There was no weakness. You always know what the Raiders are going to do—they just do it well. They have fine personnel and don't make mistakes."

The Raiders enter 1984 with a pat hand, and even Flores concedes that "we should be the favorites."

Next in line, despite their 7-9 showing in 1983 are the San Diego Chargers. The Chargers played last season with a defense heavily laced with rookies. Several offseason moves should help solidify the Chargers in that area.



Warner's flying feet have carried the Seahawks into contention.

Even if defensive linemen Kenny Neil and Abdul Salaam are a bit past their prime—as some in the Jets organization thought—they will strengthen the Chargers front and apply some much-needed pressure to take the heat off the Chargers secondary. Besides Salaam and Neil, the Chargers also traded for inside linebacker Brian Kelley of the New York Giants. Their first draft choice was Texas cornerback Mossy Cade, who will allow their 1983 No. 1 pick, Gill Byrd, to move from corner to safety, where he should be more comfortable after offseason back surgery. Inside linebackers Billy Ray Smith and Mike Green, both rookies a year ago, should benefit from the year's experience.

The Chargers offense—enough said. It ranks No. 1 in the NFL—even with Fouts sidelined for parts of six games. If he regains his health, and running backs Chuck Muncie and Pete Johnson stay healthy, the Chargers will be back near the form that won them AFC West titles from 1979 to '81.

The Seahawks are still a team in transition, despite the playoff appearance. Defensively, the line is solid, coming off a record-breaking performance that included 43 quarterback sacks. But the secondary gave up 33 touchdown passes and things may not get any better, because regulars Kerry Justin and Greggory Johnson both skipped to the

United States Football League. An offseason trade for cornerback Terry Jackson, late of the New York Giants, should help shore up the positions, as will first-round draft choice Terry Taylor of Southern Illinois.

The Seahawks tried to sign Warren Moon in the offseason, but lost out to the Oilers. That leaves Dave Krieg as the incumbent to hand the ball off to Warner. Second-round choice Daryl Turner, a wide receiver from Michigan State, could contribute opposite Steve Largent.

The Chiefs' plight may best be summed up by this simple statistic: Late last season they scored 48 points against the Seahawks and lost in overtime. Two weeks later they scored 38 against the Chargers and lost. Chiefs coach John Mackovic said his team lacked beef up the middle, so with the first pick in the 1984 draft he went for Pittsburgh nose tackle Bill Maas. In the second round, Mackovic went for Penn State inside linebacker Scott Radecic.

Mackovic may have dug himself a hole in the secondary, however. During the offseason, the Chiefs signed Kerry Parker, who came down from the Canadian Football League. He was Canada's premier bump-and-run cornerback. But he will have to produce immediately because Mackovic dealt away three-time Pro Bowler Gary

Green to the Los Angeles Rams in a draft-day deal.

The Chiefs still have no proven running back, although they have the distinction of signing the first player to jump from the USFL to the NFL—fullback Ken Lacy. Lacy's status probably will be determined in the court case the USFL is likely to bring when he begins practice with the Chiefs at the start of training camp. The passing attack—third in the NFL last season—should only get better. The addition of Iowa tackle John Alt will help beef up the offensive line.

The Broncos also made some offseason moves, acquiring quarterback Scott Brunner from the Giants to replace the departed Steve DeBerg. They also traded for tight end Eason Ramson of the 49ers, wide receiver Dave Logan of the Browns, and linebacker Stan Blinks of the Jets.

For the Broncos to repeat their 1983 playoff performance, second-year quarterback John Elway must play more hot than cold, because when he's good, he's very, very good. But when he's bad . . . ■

KENT PULLIAM always brings his calculator to San Diego-Kansas City games. His last piece for INSIDE SPORTS profiled Chiefs head coach John Mackovic.

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NFL

Football '84

NFC East

By JIM SMITH

THE DALLAS COWBOYS HAVE their winning tradition. The Washington Redskins have appeared in the last two Super Bowls. But the St. Louis Cardinals are a team on the threshold of a dream in the NFC East.

In the 1980s, this division has become one of the toughest in the NFL. Even the Giants, whose offense has been laughable, are respected for their defense. The Redskins'

1. Redskins

2. Cowboys

3. Cardinals

4. Giants

5. Eagles

one-back formation started a trend. And the Cowboys' consistent success has attracted a nationwide following.

Now, the Cardinals are looking for a place at the top.

It has taken St. Louis coach Jim Hanifan four seasons. But he transformed an aging, losing team into an enthusiastic winner that could make a run at Super Bowl XIX. Gone are Jim Hart, Mel Gray, Dan Dierdorf, Roger Wehrli. The Cardinals have found 29 players in the last five drafts, 14 of them starters.

They were 5-11 in Hanifan's first season and 7-9 in 1981. They started to reap the benefits of good drafting in strike-shortened 1982, when they had a 5-4 record and made the playoffs. Last year, the Cards went 7-2-1 in their final 10 games to finish 8-7-1. This year they should be even better.

There is just one little problem. The Cards are 2-13 in recent games against Dallas and Washington. They were 0-4 last year against

those two teams, and were outscored 152-55.

"I think it's just the maturity of our players," Cards offensive coordinator Rod Dowhower said. "We have a very young team, but the way we ended up last season leads me to believe that we can overcome that."

Cards quarterback Neil Lomax, 25, a No. 2 pick in 1981, came back from an early-season shoulder injury to throw scoring passes in his final eight games.

Lomax has learned much from Dowhower, who convinced him to curtail his free-wheeling. He set club records for completion percentage (59) and rating (92), throwing for 24 touchdowns, with 11 interceptions. The Cards allowed Hart to sign with Washington and used a No. 3 pick for quarterback Rick McIvor.

Lomax was sacked 40 times last season. The offensive line is one of this team's problem areas. Not at the tackles, where Luis Sharpe and Tootie Robbins have 10-year futures, but at the other spots. The Cards drafted Texas guard Doug Dawson in the second round to compete with starters Terry Stieve and Joe Bostic. Center Randy Clark will be pushed by Carlos Scott.

Tight end has long been considered a Cards weakness, but Doug Marsh (32 catches, 421 yards, 8 TDs) came on with a rush last season. Pro Bowl receiver Roy Green tied for the NFC lead with 78 catches in 1983 and led the NFL with 14 touchdown receptions. Veteran Pat Tilley, 31, is a sure-handed possession receiver. Hanifan said he will use his No. 1 pick, receiver Clyde

Duncan, as a third wideout on obvious passing downs.

When the Cardinals run, Ottis Anderson usually gets the ball. The No. 1 pick in 1979 gained 1,270 yards last year and also set a club record for running backs by catching 54 passes. Anderson has gained 6,190 yards rushing, a club record, in five seasons.

When the Cards run from the I, the fullback is good-blocking Wayne Morris. On passing downs, they use little Stump Mitchell in a Joe Washington-type role.

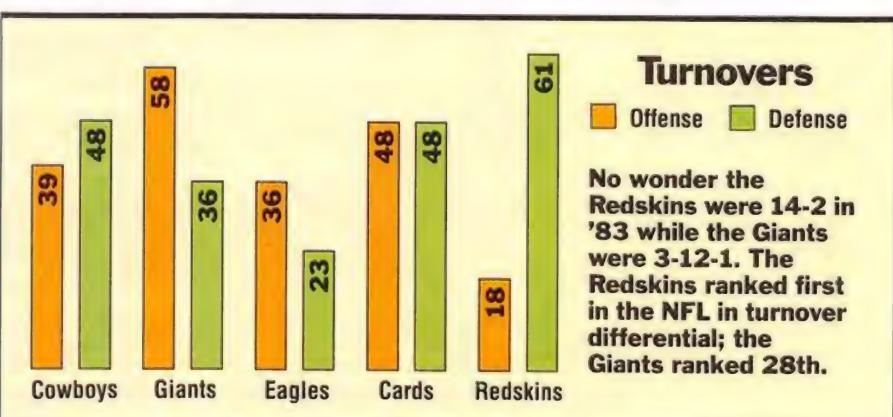
Defensively, the Cards strength is the line, coached by Floyd Peters, who fashioned the Gold Rush in San Francisco and the Silver Rush in Detroit. St. Louis led the NFL in sacks with 59, and its defense ranked sixth overall.

Right end Curtis Greer (16 sacks) and left end Al Baker (13½) are one of the best pass-rushing pairs in the NFL. Tackle David Galloway, considered a bust in 1982, contributed 12 sacks.

Middle linebacker E. J. Junior has put last year's four-game drug suspension behind him and could be ready for an All-Pro season. Injuries have unsettled the Cards secondary and it remains the only other problem area.

The Cowboys ship sprung many leaks last season. They started 7-0 and were 12-2 before losing their last three games, including a 24-17 defeat to the Rams in the NFC wild-card game at Texas Stadium. It was the first time since 1961 that Dallas closed a season with three straight losses.

There wasn't a taxicab driver or hotel clerk in Dallas who didn't think the Cowboys



would beat the Rams. An NFL-record 18 straight winning seasons and nine straight playoff appearances have spoiled Cowboys fans.

But they do not think quarterback Danny White is a winner. They know that the Cowboys offensive line does not intimidate. And they know the defense contains a lot of average players. Sooner or later, this team will pay the price for a series of poor drafts. Will there be major changes in 1984?

"Who knows?" coach Tom Landry said. "That's an offseason evaluation you have to make. Major changes aren't easy to make. We try to develop from within."

Cowboys president Tex Schramm laughed when he was asked if the 1983 season was the end of an era. "I remember after the '79 season, everybody said, 'That's the end of the Cowboys era.' I don't think it's the end of any cycle. The difference with the Cowboys is that their only judgment of success is the Super Bowl. With other mortals, it's the playoffs, winning seasons, things like that."

One major change occurred when the franchise was sold in the offseason by founder Clint Murchison Jr. to a group headed by Dallas businessman H. R. (Bum) Bright.

Also in the offseason, the Cowboys removed a persistent problem when they traded receiver Butch Johnson to the Houston Oilers for receiver Mike Renfro. Cowboys veteran receiver Drew Pearson suffered liver damage in a March 22 auto accident that killed his brother. But Pearson vowed to return for another year.

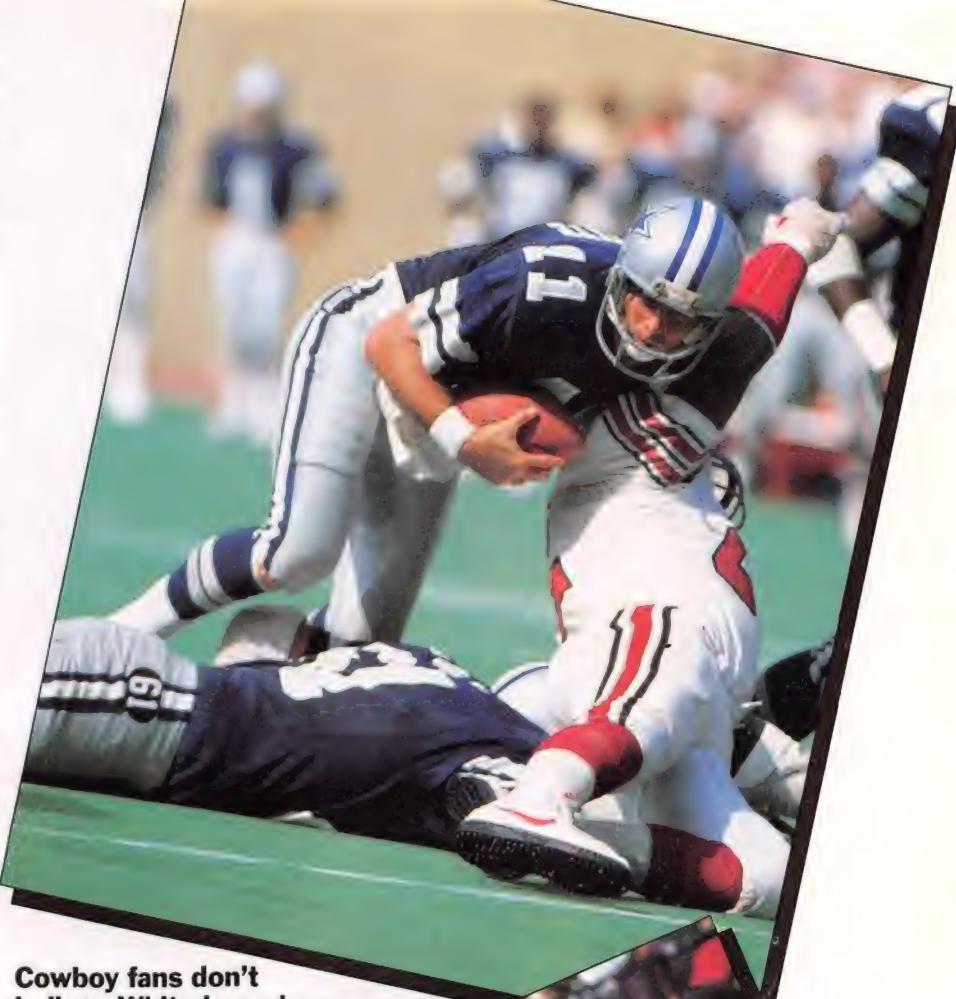
Two Cowboys retired—tight end Billy Joe DuPree, 34, who never missed a game in an 11-year career, and right defensive end Harvey Martin, 33, who had led the team in sacks for 10 years. Doug Cosbie had supplanted DuPree as a starter. Don Smerek will inherit Martin's job.

Dallas' defense was 27th in the NFL against the pass in 1983 and 17th overall. Tackle John Dutton is 33, as is end Too Tall Jones. Tackle Randy White is 31. The Cowboys used three of their top four draft picks for defensive players—linebackers Billy Cannon Jr. and Steve DeOssie, and cornerback Victor Scott.

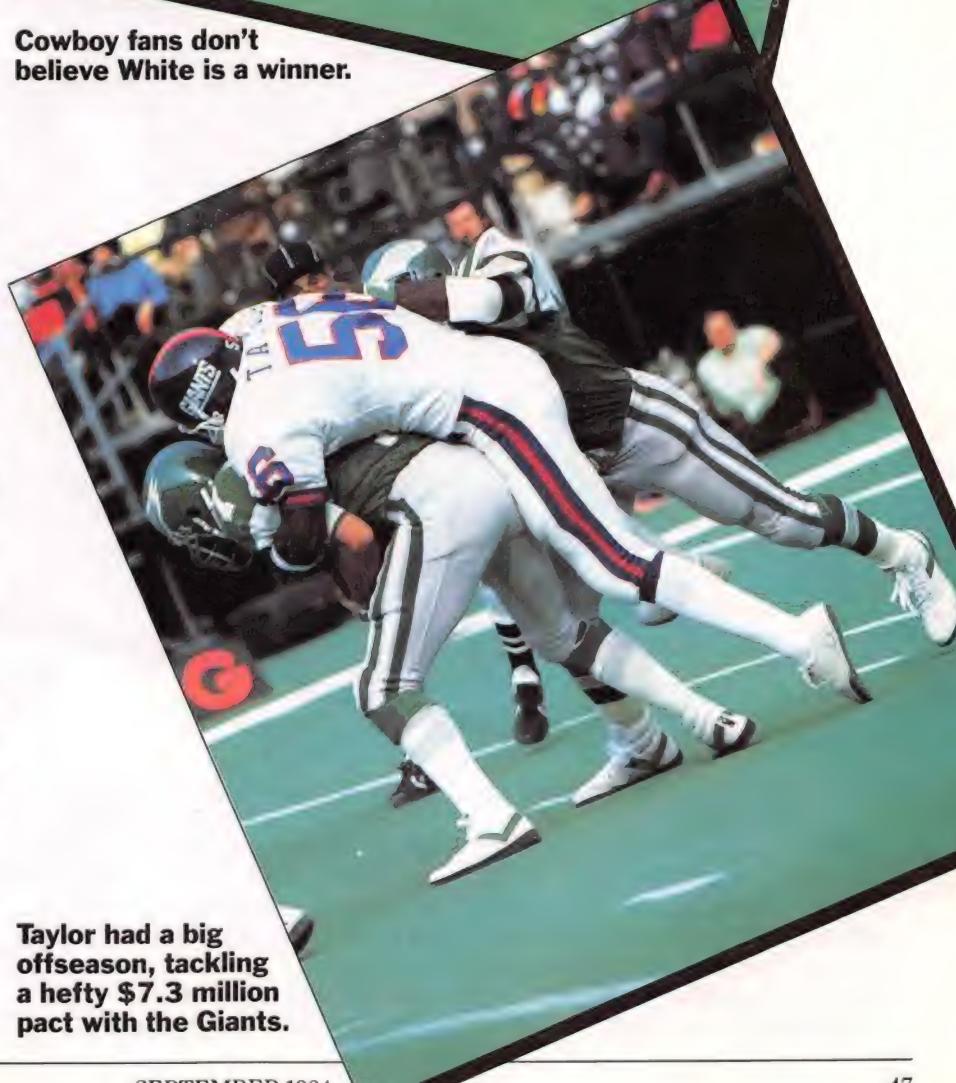
White has not produced enough big plays at quarterback and will be challenged in camp by Gary Hogeboom. Running back Tony Dorsett in seven seasons has become the NFL's No. 8 all-time rusher.

"Our approach will be to regain the mental edge we had early last year," Landry said. "The season left a bitter taste."

The Washington Redskins feel the same way. They have won 36 of 43 regular-season games, but failed to win their second straight Super Bowl when they were wiped out, 38-9, by the Raiders. The loss provided



Cowboy fans don't believe White is a winner.



Taylor had a big offseason, tackling a hefty \$7.3 million pact with the Giants.



Lomax set Cardinals records for completion percentage and rating, but he was sacked 40 times last year.

incentive, but some of the Redskins' key parts are wearing out.

Defensive tackle Dave Butz is 34. Part-time defensive end Tony McGee is 35. Kicker Mark Moseley is 36. Fullback John Riggins is 35. Right offensive tackle George Starke is 36. Quarterback Joe Theismann will be 35 on September 9.

Washington led the league in rushing

defense last year (80.6), but could not stop Marcus Allen. The Redskins expect lineman Mat Mendenhall to return after sitting out a year with personal problems. They used their first two draft picks for DT Bob Slater and DE Steve Hamilton. Their former All-Pro strong safety, Tony Peters, returns after a one-year drug suspension.

The Fun Bunch will have to cancel its end-

zone celebrations because of a new league rule that bans prolonged, excessive, or pre-meditated celebrations. "I think they should look into some other aspect of the game," Washington's Pro Bowl receiver Charlie Brown said. "The reason we do it is that it gives us incentive to get into the endzone. Our fans love it."

The Skins offense scored an NFL-record

541 points last year. Riggins' 24 touchdowns was a league record. Washington scored at least 23 points in every game of a 14-2 season. Theismann was never better (29 touchdown passes, 11 interceptions). The Skins lost only seven fumbles, fewest in the league. The only question is, will age catch up with them?

Age is not the Giants' problem. Poor management is.

If the Giants find five people who can play

ans—quarterback Scott Brunner, cornerback Terry Jackson, and linebacker Kelley.

But fans who have witnessed only three winning seasons in the last two decades have been conditioned to expect the worst.

The Philadelphia Eagles' decline began in 1981, when they lost four of their last five games. After they went 3-6 the next season, defensive coordinator Marion Campbell took over for Dick Vermeil. The Eagles started 4-2 last season, but then lost nine of their last

The Redskins offense scored a record 541 points last season. Riggins' 24 touchdowns was a league record. Theismann was never better, throwing 29 TD passes. The team lost only seven fumbles. The only question is, will age catch up with the Skins?

offensive line, if quarterback Phil Simms stays healthy for the first time since 1979, if fullback Rob Carpenter runs like he did in 1981, if receiver Byron Williams can take some of the pass-catching pressure off Ernest Gray, if linebacker Harry Carson forgets his desire to be traded, if No. 12 pick in 1983 Robbie Jones can replace Brian Kelley, if defensive end Leonard Marshall stops eating training tables, if nose guards Jim Burt and Bill Neill return after injury-plagued seasons, if Bill Parcells really can coach, and if the ball bounces right . . . the Giants could go 7-9.

There are no expectations, however. This team is 26-46-1 in five years under general manager George Young. It is the losingest team in the NFL over the last 11 years (49-108-2). It went 1-10-1 in its final 12 games last year and 3-12-1 overall. It led the NFL in turnovers with 58, many inside opponents' territory. Whatever can go wrong for the Giants usually does.

They made changes in the offseason. But they are still the Giants. Young's biggest coup was retaining linebacker Lawrence Taylor with a \$7.3 million contract. He also had a good draft, getting blue-chip linebacker Carl Banks, offensive tackles Bill Roberts and Conrad Goode, and quarterback Jeff Hostetler.

Young hired Harry Hulmes as his new assistant GM, replacing Terry Bledsoe, now GM in Buffalo. He hired a new strength-and-conditioning coach, Johnny Parker. He signed a pair of USFL players to future contracts, guard Chris Godfrey and cornerback Kenny Daniel. He traded three veter-

10 to finish 5-11. They lost seven games by a total of 22 points. The old guard has departed, and now the Eagles could be one of the worst teams in the NFL.

Only seven starters remain from the 1980 Eagles, who lost 27-10 to the Raiders in Super Bowl XV. In the offseason, the Eagles released Harold Carmichael, 34, who is tied for fifth in receptions on the all-time list. To replace him, they drafted Penn State receiver Kenny Jackson in the first round.

Jackson is expected to start opposite Mike Quick, who was the offense last year, catching 69 passes for 1,409 yards and 13 scores. To open things up, Campbell fired several offensive assistants and hired Ted Marchibroda as his new offensive coordinator. The Eagles were last in scoring in 1983, 26th in rushing, and 27th in total offense.

Wilbert Montgomery's body finally is breaking down and the Eagles have no other backs who can carry the load. Their offensive line has several weak links. Left tackle Stan Walters has retired. Center Guy Morris was released and is to be replaced by Mark Dennard, acquired in a trade with Miami. Tight end John Spagnola returns after missing 1983 with a neck injury.

Eagles fans have been booing quarterback Ron Jaworski for years. He completed only 52.7% of his passes last year, threw 18 interceptions, and was sacked 55 times.

Defensively, the Eagles were 27th against the rush, and had only eight interceptions. Their linebackers are agile and quick but not bulky, and can be worn down. Their secondary is ordinary. This club will be lucky to win five games.

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NFC Central

IN THE DAYS OF NITSCHKE, BUTkus, and Schmidt, the NFC Central Division was pro football's "Black and Blue" division. In the 1950s and '60s, Detroit, Chicago, and Green Bay won league titles. But lately, all five NFC Central teams have been just blue.

In the last five years, each has shown

flashes of brilliance, but none has sustained it. Of all the NFL's divisions, the NFC Central has gone the longest without a Super Bowl winner (Green Bay in 1967) and without a Super Bowl participant (Minnesota in 1976). The division has become so balanced that any of its five teams can approach a season with legitimate playoff hopes.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers had their moment, going 10-6 in the franchise's third season in 1979 and coming within a game of the Super Bowl. They also took the division crown in 1981 with a 9-7 mark. But by last year, their once-proud defense had crumbled, their quarterback, Doug Williams, had signed with the USFL, and the Bucs' 2-14 record tied Houston's for the NFL's worst.

The Detroit Lions, who have had two winning seasons in the last 11 years, won their first division title in 26 years in 1983 by the narrowest of margins with a 9-7 record. Coach Monte Clark's team was 7-1 against division teams, three of which finished 8-8—Minnesota, Green Bay, and Chicago.

The Vikings dominated this division from 1970 to '80, taking nine titles. But they have

fallen into mediocrity. Now, Bud Grant, who took them to four Super Bowls without winning one, has resigned, replaced by his special teams coach, Les Steckel.

The Bears were wild-card playoff participants in 1977 and 1979 but are 24-33 since then. Fiery coach Mike Ditka has lit a flame in Chicago, but the Bears have not had a good passing offense since they won the NFL title in 1963.

The Packers have had only three winning seasons in the last 14. Coach Bart Starr's statute of limitations expired in the off-season, when the Packers fired him and turned to one of their leaders in the '60s, Forrest Gregg.

From top to bottom, the NFC Central's five teams have finished closer than any other division for five of the last six years. But the division boasts of only three legitimate superstars: Bears running back Walter Payton, Lions running back Billy Sims, and Bucs linebacker Hugh Green.

The division's teams have reputations for being stingy. Defenses dominate. The ball can get slippery in Chicago and Green Bay,

1. Packers

2. Bears

3. Lions

4. Vikings

5. Bucs

but Detroit and Minnesota have domed stadiums.

Starr was a hero as a quarterback for the Packers, but had a 52-76-1 record in nine seasons as a coach. Grant's was considerably better—151-87-5. But at 56, he said, "There are a lot of things I still want to do while I still have my health."

"It was such a surprise," said Steckel, 39. "I was numb."

The third big development in the division during the offseason was that Payton came to contract terms. He also underwent arthroscopic surgery on both knees. But Payton expects to be at full strength by opening day. He needs only 687 rushing yards this year to pass Jim Brown (12,312) as the NFL's all-time leading rusher.

"It's my 11,000-yard checkup," he said after the treatment. "Like changing oil in a car. The doctor told me I could play five or six more years. When I'm through with this game, I want to dance."

Grant did not do much dancing as Vikings coach, but in his 17 seasons, only Dallas won as many NFL division titles (11). Still, the Vikings missed the playoffs in three of the last five years and were 36-37 over that period. They lost six of their final eight games last season.

The Packers, meanwhile, broke their

team scoring record with 429 points in 1983, but also gave up more points (439) than any team in their history. Starr never was able to develop a consistent defense, and paid the price.

Bears coach Ditka is so tough that he broke a bone in his hand punching a filing cabinet. A relentless driver, he inspired the Bears to five victories in their last six games to finish at .500. Payton, 29, ran for 1,421 yards, his fourth-best total in a nine-year career. His three-year contract reportedly pays him \$1 million a season and includes a \$10.3 million annuity.

Like the Bears, Detroit also re-signed a running back. A federal judge ruled in February that Sims could honor the five-year, \$4.5 million deal he signed with the Lions. Sims also had signed a \$3.5 million contract with the USFL's Houston Gamblers.

Sims rushed for 1,040 yards last year despite an early-season wrist injury that forced him to miss four games. He also caught 42 passes and was an emotional sideline leader.

The Lions' biggest problem has been instability at quarterback, with Gary Danielson and Eric Hipple. Hipple was the third-worst rated quarterback in the NFL, completing 52.7% of his passes. He threw 18 interceptions and only 12 scoring passes. He

sprained his left knee in the final regular-season game. Danielson relieved him for the Lions' playoff game and threw five interceptions in a 24-23 defeat to San Francisco.

The Lions lost receiver Freddie Scott to the USFL and have one of the worst receiver corps in football: Mark Nichols, Jeff Chadwick, and Leonard Thompson. Clark drafted TE David Lewis and WR Pete Mandley in the first two rounds.

Defensively, Detroit allowed only 14.4 points a game in the second half and its 286 points allowed for the season were the second-fewest in the NFL. The Lions have a fine pass-rushing front four, with Doug English and William Gay combining for 26½ sacks last year. The linebackers are solid but unspectacular; the secondary is improving.

Clark said at a spring minicamp, "We want to have the same attitude [as in '83] and push on to the next level of success. To get past the playoffs and on to the Super Bowl, and win that."

The Packers have the best chance to knock the Lions off—if they can improve their last-in-the-NFL defense. Gregg drafted defensive ends with his first two picks—Alphonso Carreker and Donnie Humphrey. Nose tackles Terry Jones and Rich Turner are coming off the injured-reserve list. So Green Bay should be better up front.

Watch the game with a wide receiver.

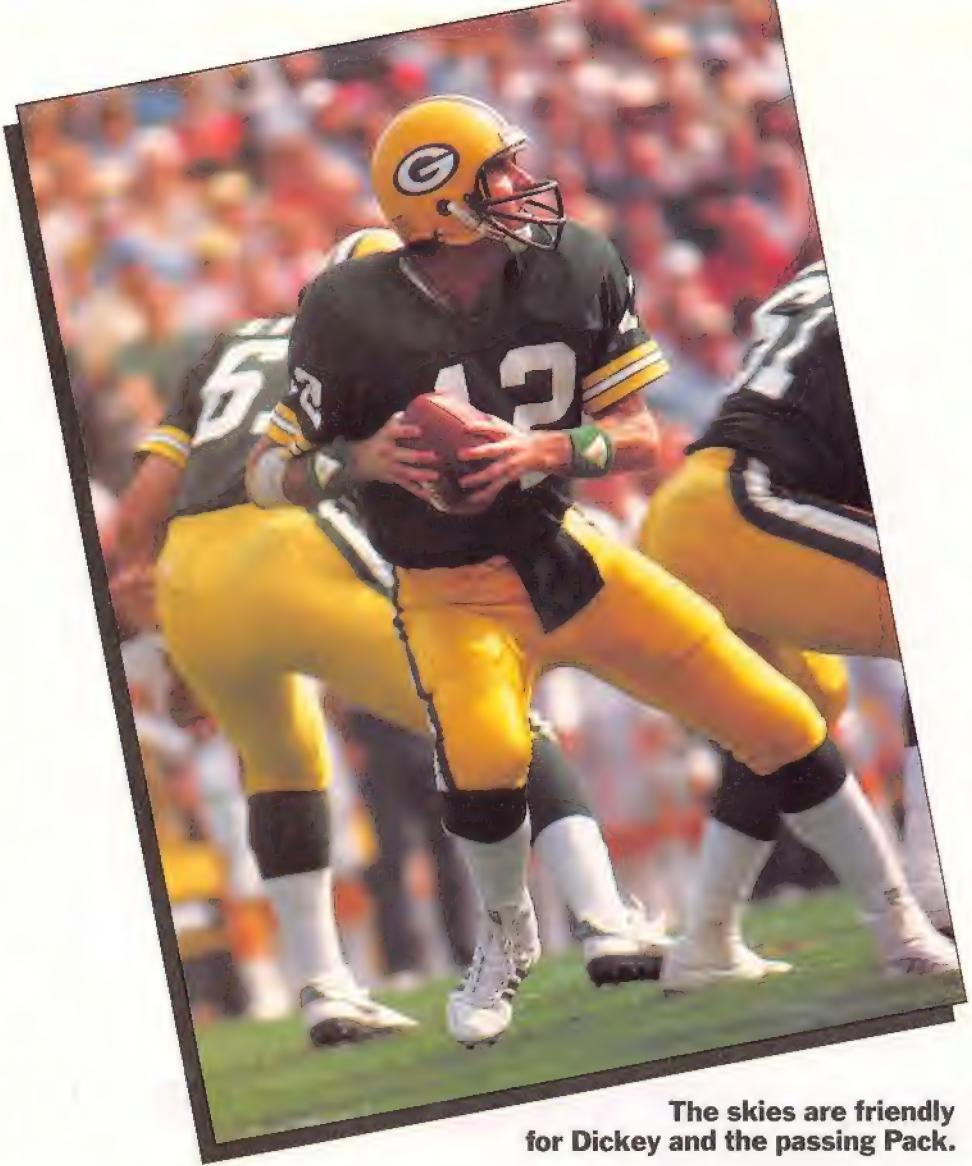


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**The skies are friendly
for Dickey and the passing Pack.**

New defensive backs coach Ken Riley likes his No. 5 pick, safety Tom Flynn. Mike McCoy might switch from corner to safety when he returns after a knee injury. The Packers also are high on two of their young outside linebackers, Cliff Lewis and No. 4 draft pick John Dorsey.

The Packers offense was second in the NFL last year and second in passing. They lost backup tight end Gary Lewis to the USFL. Receiver John Jefferson, in the final year of his contract, was rumored to be on the trading block. But quarterback Lynn Dickey returns along with wideout James Lofton (58 receptions-1,300 yards-7 TDs) and tight end Paul Coffman (54-814-11).

Dickey threw for an amazing 4,458 yards and 32 scores, but also threw 29 interceptions. His offensive line is shaky and so are his knees. The Packers ground game was only 21st last season and missed halfback Eddie Lee Ivery, who returns after treatment for cocaine dependency. Gerry Ellis played solidly, rushing for 696 yards and catching 52 passes for 603.

The Bears wish they had the Packers

receivers. The Bears have a good defense, but their offense doesn't score enough.

In their last six games, the Bears averaged 203 yards per game on the ground and 157 in the air. Quarterback Jim McMahon was erratic. A trade for a receiver to complement Willie Gault (40-836) might help. Especially since Ken Margerum suffered a knee injury in a minicamp, which will sideline him this season.

The Bears offensive line is young and improving. But left guard Noah Jackson is 33. So Ditka took guards Stefan Humphries and Tom Andrews in the third and fourth rounds.

The Bears play a 4-3 defense with All-Pro Mike Singletary in the middle and Otis Wilson and converted defensive end Al Harris outside. Still, they drafted linebackers in the first two rounds, Wilber Marshall and Ron Rivera.

Their defensive line will be stronger with tackle Dan Hampton back after an injury. Dick's nephew, tackle Mark Butkus, was the Bears' No. 11 pick. The secondary is solid, especially if free safety Gary Fencik returns after an injury-shortened 1983.

But the offense must open up. Right, Mike Ditka? "When I came here," Ditka said, "I was committed to the pass because I wanted to show the people that we could open up the offense. Now, I'm committed to winning. I think the best way to win is with what your players believe in. Our players believe in running."

Steckel predicts a wide-open offense for the Vikings, with quarterback Tommy Kramer back after knee surgery ended his season following the third game in 1983. "It will be like watching a tennis match," Steckel said.

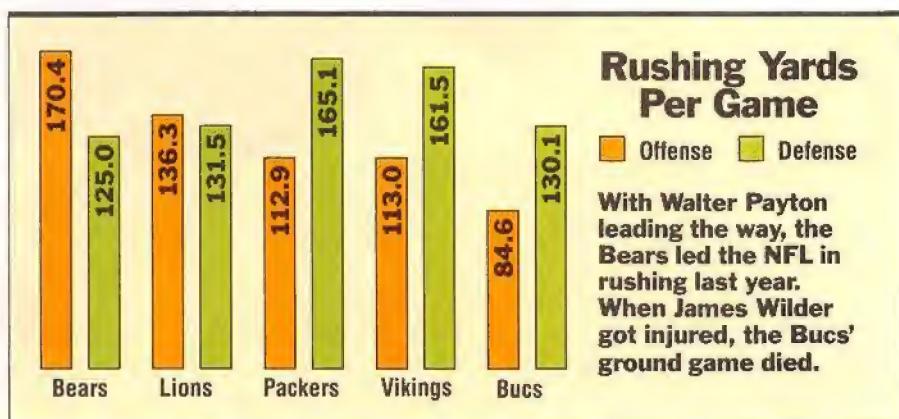
The new coach is allowing players to wear white shoes in games, something Grant would not tolerate. The Vikings also were auditioning for cheerleaders, another first.

The Vikings drafted the Baylor backfield, Alfred Anderson (No. 3) and Allen Tice (No. 5), to join little Darrin Nelson and Ted Brown. They made defensive end Keith Millard No. 1.

Steckel hopes to get more from several players who missed at least five games with injuries in 1983: tight end Joe Senser, Brown, linebacker Mark Stewart, receivers Sammy White and Sam McCullum, and defensive linemen Mark Mullaney and Mike Mularkey.

Center Dennis Swilley retired, and left guard Jim Hough will be tried at his position.

Minnesota could not keep its receivers



healthy (White's 29 catches were high by a wideout), and it never developed a consistent ground game. Vikings fans still are wondering why the team chose little Nelson (642 yards) over Marcus Allen. Obviously, team president Max Winter did not hold it against GM Mike Lynn, whom he signed to a new five-year contract.

The Vikings defense was 25th against the rush in 1983. They need help at outside linebacker, where Matt Blair will be 34 and Fred McNeill 32. Nose tackles Charlie Johnson, 32, and James White, 30, may be past their primes. The secondary is average.

Tampa Bay cannot get much worse. Its offense was 28th in the NFL, 27th in rushing. At the end of last season, Bucs fans wore orange T-shirts saying "Flush John" and "Dump McKay in the Bay" and "Get Rid of McKay and the Bucs Will Play."

"Some people like me and some people don't," said McKay, the only coach the Bucs have had. "But I'm not going to spend any time worrying about either group."

Part of the reason for the Bucs' collapse was that they started 14 different offensive-line combinations. "We only played the same offensive line twice," McKay said, "and when we did we moved the ball pretty well. On two consecutive weeks, we had different offensive linemen get hurt in the pregame warmup . . . It may have just been one of those years."

Mckay added, "We changed quarterbacks last year, which was not something we anticipated, either." After losing Williams, the Bucs acquired the Throwin' Samoan, Jack Thompson, from Cincinnati. But Thompson threw for more interceptions (21) than touchdowns (18). Thompson could be challenged by Steve DeBerg, whom the Bucs acquired from Denver for a draft pick.

Both of Tampa Bay's starting running backs, James Wilder and James Owens, missed several games last year. When they were out, the ground game fizzled. The Bucs have one of the worst receiver corps in the NFL. They need to trade for a receiver.

Tight end Jimmie Giles, who has renegotiated his contract five times in seven years, was signed to a new contract through 1986 by Bucs owner Hugh Culverhouse.

Defensively, the Bucs in four years went from one of the best in the NFL to the middle of the pack. Their secondary was a revolving door last year. Free safety Beasley Reece, waived by the Giants, contributed six interceptions and experience.

Right linebacker Green was bothered by a hamstring, but still led the team in tackles and was voted to the Pro Bowl. The only other quality defensive player is right end Lee Roy Selmon, whose 11 sacks led the Bucs for the seventh time and helped him make his fifth straight Pro Bowl.

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NFC West

THE NFC WEST DIVISION USED to be the exclusive property of the Los Angeles Rams. They won seven straight division titles, ending in 1979 when they appeared in Super Bowl XIV.

But in 1984, the division promises to be one of the tightest in the NFL. The San Francisco 49ers have one of the league's best offenses. The Rams have been revived under coach John Robinson. And the Atlanta

1. 49ers

2. Saints

3. Rams

4. Falcons

Falcons are in an even year—they always have winning seasons in even years.

The key question in this division, however is: Can the New Orleans Saints have their first winning season and make the playoffs for the first time in their history? Lord knows, that would be good for the NFL and long-suffering Saints fans.

The NFC West, composed of southern (New Orleans, Atlanta) and western (San Francisco, Los Angeles) portions, probably boasts the best weather of any division and also some of the top offensive threats: Eric Dickerson, Joe Montana, Dwight Clark, William Andrews, George Rogers, and Steve Bartkowski. But all four NFC West teams have holes in their defense.

The 49ers and Rams should contend for the division title. But the Saints are an intriguing story. They almost qualified for a wild-card playoff spot last year. In their final game, they lost in the last six seconds at home to the Rams, 26-24, and settled for an 8-8 record.

"We all are disappointed that we did not make the playoffs," coach Bum Phillips said, "but we feel like we accomplished some things that will help us . . . in the future. This young team learned how to come from behind and not give up in tight games."

Phillips has recruited more good players than the other NFC West teams have. The Saints were 1-15 in 1980 and their fans wore bags over their heads at home games. But New Orleans was 4-12 and 4-5 in Phillips'

first two years, and reached .500 last season.

"When I first came here," said Phillips, whose contract was extended in the off-season through 1988, "I said we could turn it around in three years. I believe we did."

All the Saints need is a little more experience. They now have confidence in themselves.

"Some people you like," Saints fullback Wayne Wilson told I.S. in the January 1984 issue. "Some people you respect. But Bum you like and respect. He's a man's man. He just has a certain air about him that all great coaches have. It's a confident, winning attitude. And everybody feels it."

The Saints defense ranked No. 1 in the NFC overall in the final eight weeks of 1983. It recorded a club-record 56 sacks. Linebacker Rickey Jackson was voted to the Pro Bowl. Strong safety Russell Gary, nose tackle Derland Moore, and cornerback Johnnie Poe were named alternates.

Phillips hopes he strengthened the defense further with No. 2 draft pick DT James

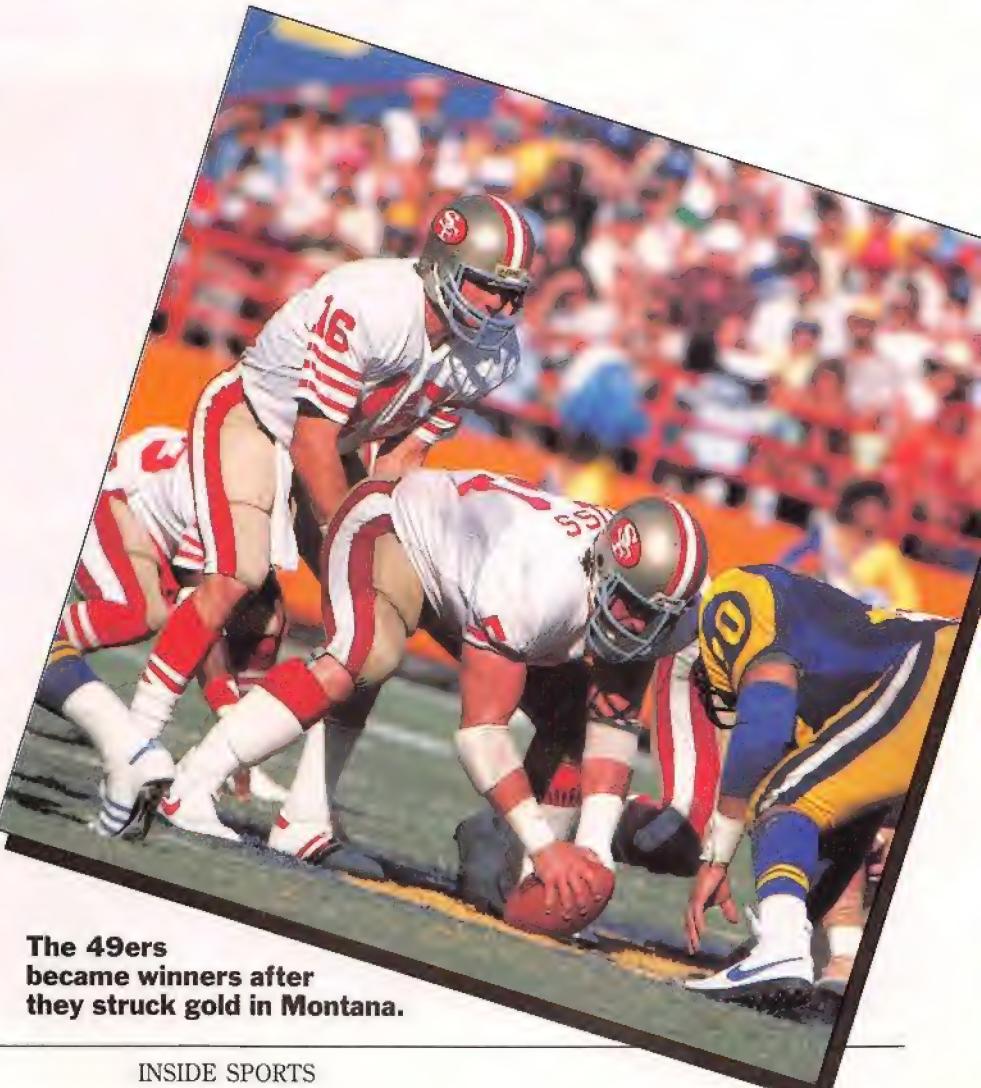
Geathers, and No. 3 choice Terry Hoage, a safety. Phillips gave up his No. 1 choice for Jets quarterback Richard Todd. But 38-year-old lefthander Ken Stabler rejected a \$1 million per season offer from the Memphis Showboats and signed a new Saints contract. Todd will have to win the job.

"I want to go out smoking," Stabler said, after having minor knee surgery. "I haven't felt this good in five or six years. My weight is down to 195 . . . I've told Richard he has to understand that I'm still the man."

Todd figures even if he doesn't start right away, his move to New Orleans is good. "It's a good, young team, with its best years ahead of it," he said. "The players are hungry."

The Saints don't have a problem running, not since Phillips took Rogers with the first overall choice in 1981. But they must score more points than last year's 319. Their passing offense was 26th in the NFL.

Rogers gained 1,144 yards, despite nagging injuries, and Wilson contributed 787. But the Saints never seem to have receivers



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they can count on. Their line is solid. No. 4 pick Joel Hilgenberg could be 34-year-old John Hill's heir at center. The No. 3 pick, running back Tyrone Anthony, could take some pressure off Rogers.

"Obviously I feel good about the players we picked," Phillips said, "because I picked them. You put Richard Todd up there and I think we had a heck of a draft."

So did the 49ers. Last year's division champions are trying to become the first NFC West team to repeat since the Rams did

don't throw the ball way down the field like most teams do. We don't take chances very often."

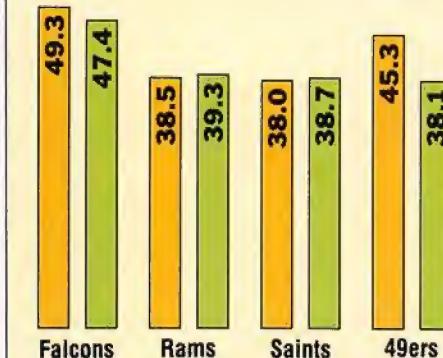
The 49ers improved from last in the NFL in rushing in 1982 to eighth after acquiring Wendell Tyler from the Rams and drafting fullback Roger Craig. Craig (725) and Tyler (856) had the fourth-highest total yards gained by a pair of backs in 49ers history.

The offensive line is one of the most consistent and experienced in the NFC. Four Super Bowl XVI starters remain: guards

3rd Down Efficiency

■ Offense ■ Defense

The Falcons ranked No. 1 in the NFL in third down efficiency on offense, but their defense was at the other extreme. It ranked dead last.



it in 1979. After their penalty-marred 24-21 defeat to Washington in the NFC title game last year, 49ers owner Ed DeBartolo Jr. said, "I'm going to lead the 49ers back to the Super Bowl next year, with the help of my friends."

Like the Raiders' Al Davis, DeBartolo is a players' owner. His team respects him and wants to win for him. But DeBartolo leaves the football decisions in the hands of the 49ers president and coach Bill Walsh.

Walsh made several moves in the off-season that could help the 49ers stay in contention: signing Montana, Clark, and linebacker Dan Bunz to new contracts, and acquiring veteran defensive tackles Louie Kelcher and Manu Tuiaosopo and linebacker Frank LeMaster in trades.

Walsh hopes the new players can offset the loss to the USFL of starting nose tackle Pete Kugler and linebackers Willie Harper and Bobby Leopold. The 49ers must groom a replacement for inside linebacker Hacksaw Reynolds, who will be 37.

San Francisco went from 2-14 in 1978 to 13-3 in 1981 and victory in the Super Bowl. But cornerback Eric Wright said his team got "on a fat-cat roll" in 1982 when it went 3-6. The 49ers recovered their intensity last season.

Montana was a key. He set club records for passing yards and completion percentage, throwing for 26 touchdowns and only 12 interceptions. The 49ers broke team records for points, first downs, and total yards.

"I'm sure the majority of my success has to do with the system," Montana said. "We

John Ayers and Randy Cross, center Fred Quillan, and right tackle Keith Fahnhorst, who have 35 years experience among them. The left tackle is Bubba Paris, the No. 2 pick in 1982. The 49ers drafted guard Guy McIntyre in the third round. They took John Frank in the second round as a backup to tight end Russ Francis.

The 49ers also need another receiver. Clark caught 314 passes in 60 games since joining the 49ers as a 10th-round pick in 1979. But he missed last year's playoffs because of knee surgery. The other San Francisco receivers are just fair.

Defensively, Bunz will get a chance to fill Harper's spot. Bunz started 45 games in his first four seasons, but missed most of the last two with injuries. Right linebacker Keena Turner initially was penciled in ahead of No. 1 draft pick Todd Shell. Ends Lawrence Pillers and Dwaine Board return, with super sub Fred Dean (17 sacks last year). Only St. Louis, with 59, had more sacks than the 49ers' 57 in 1983.

"It's a gambling-type defense," cornerback Eric Wright said, "but most of the guys in the secondary like it that way."

The 49ers defensive backs all are good in single coverage and are good run-forcers. The 49ers led the NFL with five interception returns for scores, two each by Wright and free safety Dwight Hicks.

The year the 49ers went to the Super Bowl, the Rams went 6-10. When they followed that with a 2-7 mark in 1982, coach Ray Malavasi was fired. Robinson arrived with his 67-14-2 record at USC and brought the



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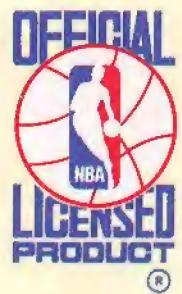
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Quarterback Vince Ferragamo had a good season (59.1% completions), but still threw too many interceptions (23).

The Rams have a big offensive line. They kept things simple last year. And they won games.

"It's really the I-formation mentality," Dallas linebacker Bob Breunig said. "Dicker-

championship level. I learned there is a difference."

The Atlanta Falcons were optimistic entering 1984 because they overcame a 2-5 start in coach Dan Henning's first season and finished 7-9. "Our first five losses were by a total of only 19 points," Henning said, "but nobody became discouraged. Twice we rallied from 21-0 deficits for victories. I think that kind of attitude will carry over into 1984."

The Falcons seem to prefer even years.



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son's back there pretty deep. They toss it to him, let him find a hole and go . . . I think he's an excellent prototype and they're smart enough to build a team around him."

Robinson said he has convinced Ferragamo to dump the ball off to his backs and tight ends rather than focus on making big plays. "We talked before [last] season," Robinson said. "It was like, 'Hey, you're our quarterback for the next 10 years—well, the next six years. You're going to have to count the number of victories, not the number of touchdowns.'"

The Rams have had a weak receiver corps for years. Their best pass-catcher now is tight end Mike Barber. They traded for the rights to Cleveland's 1983 pick, receiver Ron Brown, and hope he can add some speed to their attack. They added fullback Dwayne Crutchfield in a trade with Houston.

The Rams defense was good enough to beat Dallas, 24-17, in the playoffs. But it looked awful in the 51-7 playoff blowout at Washington. The night before the draft, the Rams acquired three-time Pro Bowl cornerback Gary Green in a trade with Kansas City.

"What we did is get some immediate help," Robinson said.

The Rams defense has been rebuilt almost entirely since the 1979 Super Bowl. The only starter left is safety Nolan Cromwell, unless end Jack Youngblood returns for another season at 34. The Rams remain weak up front and at inside linebacker.

Los Angeles sacked the quarterback only 33 times, sixth-lowest in the league. "We have to look for a better pass-rush," Robinson said. Of the 51-7 drubbing, Robinson said: "It had a sobering effect on us. It said to me that we have to build our team to where we're not just at a playoff level but at a

Since 1977, their records are: 7-7, 9-7, 6-10, 12-4, 7-9, 5-4, and 7-9. Bartkowski hopes that the cycle continues. He had his finest season in 1983, leading the NFL in passing efficiency. He threw for 22 scores and only had five interceptions. Andrews gained a club-record 1,567 yards.

After catching two passes in 1982, Billy (White Shoes) Johnson led the team with 64 receptions and also had a couple of dazzling punt returns. The Falcons never have had much trouble scoring. It's just that their defense never has solidified.

The Falcons finished last season with five rookie starters on defense, including linemen Andrew Provence, Dan Benish, and Mike Pitts. They wisely used their first five draft picks for defensive players, including defensive tackle Rick Bryan and second-round Scott Case, a defensive back.

The Falcons lost their No. 6 pick, quarterback Ben Bennett, to the USFL. But Bartkowski's backup Mike Moroski is adequate. The Falcons' real worry is improving the defense, which ranked 25th in the NFL. Atlanta must improve its pass-rush and man-to-man coverage.

Henning said his biggest disappointment last year was his team's 1-5 record within the division. "To compete in this league," he said, "you have to be strong in your division. To feel good about yourself once you get in the playoffs, you have to have done it in the division. If we had a winning record in the division, we'd be division champs."

That's what they all say. ■

By picking the Giants to finish ahead of the Redskins last year, contributing writer JIM SMITH put too much pressure on the New Yorkers, contributing to their bad season.

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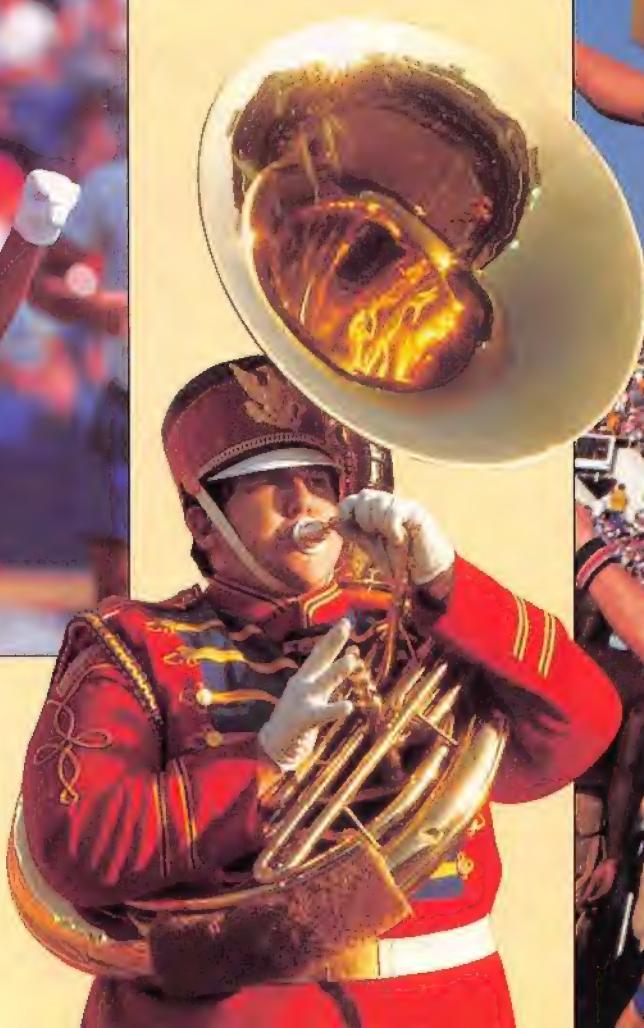
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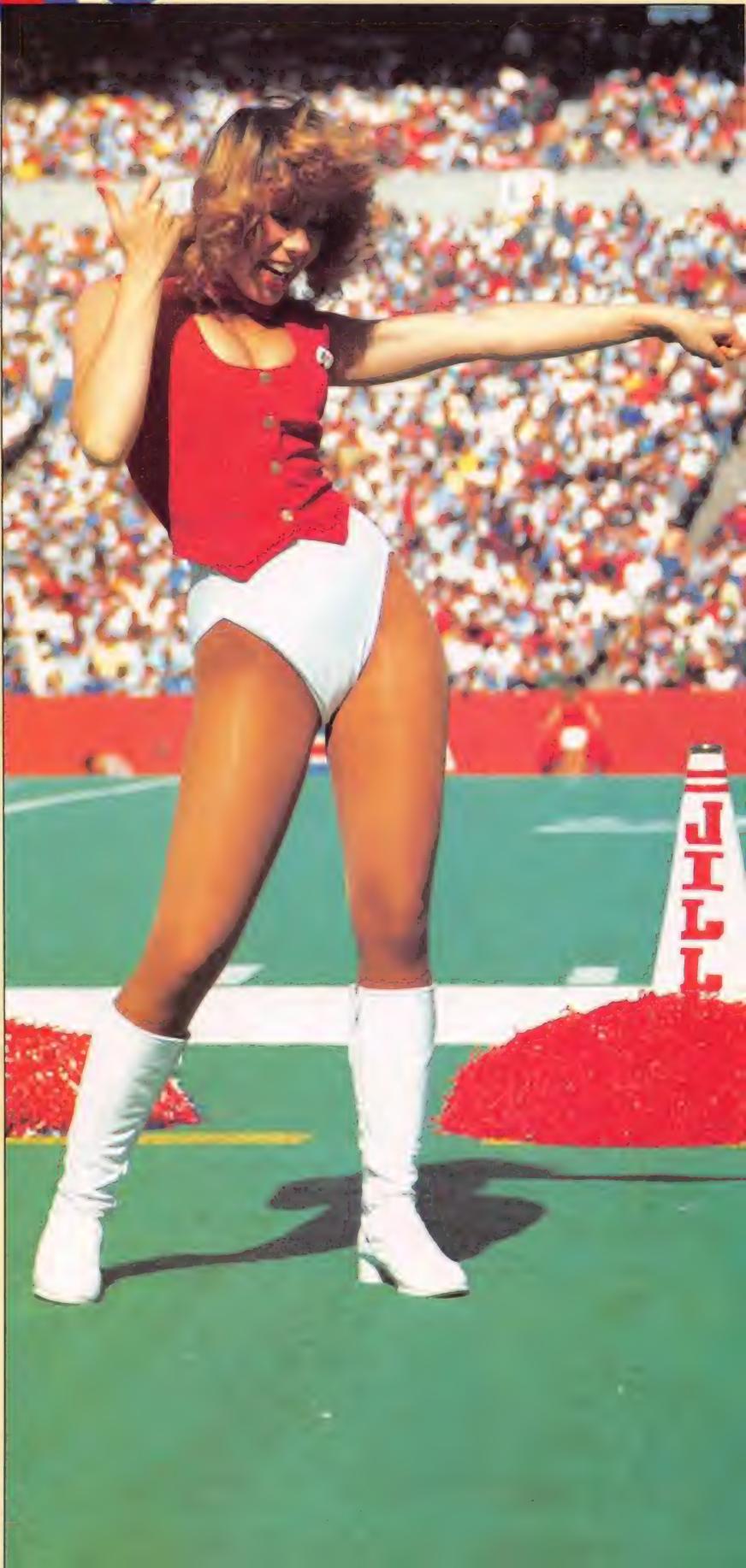
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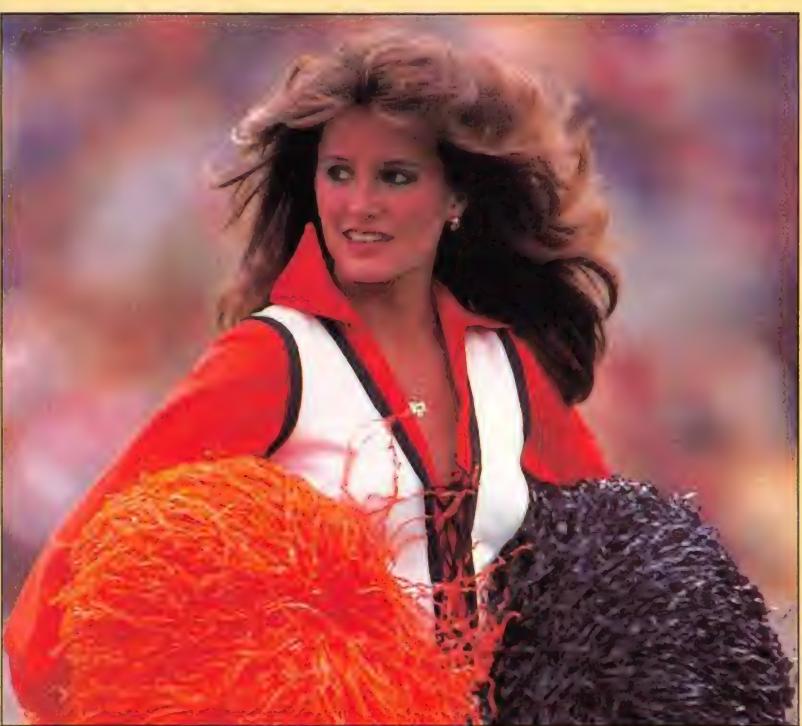


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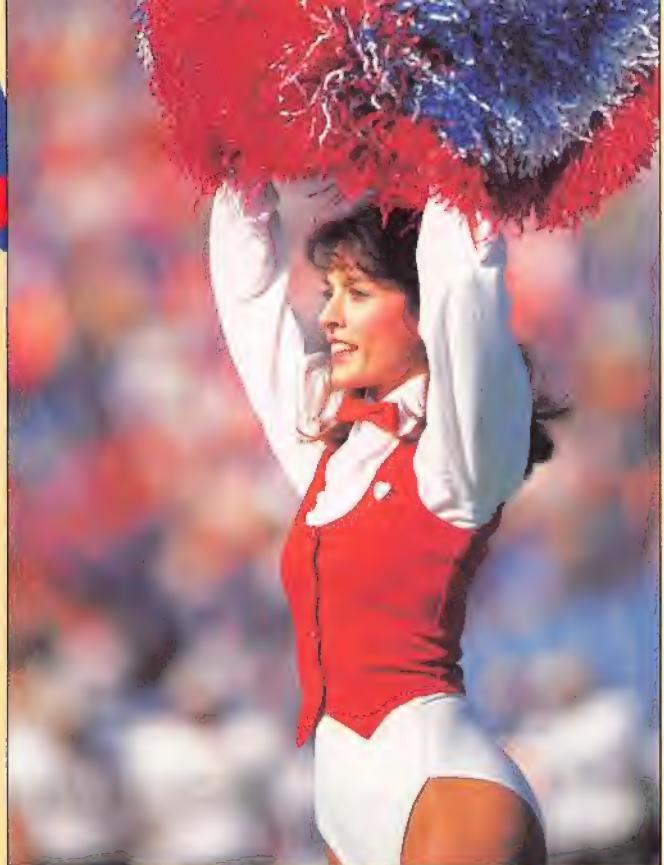


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NCAA

Football '84

The Top 20

By ARA PARSEGHIAN

CHOOSING A NO. 1 TEAM AND A TOP 20 COLLEGE alignment before the season starts seems easy enough. You just take the top 20 teams of last season, juggle them around a little, throw in such things as graduation losses, likely strength of the schedule, and the consistency of the coaches and their programs, and you have it made.

Then you start to think. Last year, almost no preseason poll forecast the correct No. 1 team. Not only did we fail before the season, we couldn't even come up with it on the final day of the season, January 2, when five major bowl games rewrote the "Who's No. 1?" script.

When the national championship is not decided until the final minute of the final bowl game, and only after an almost bizarre scenario came true for Miami, it is a great season.

Coach Howard Schnellenberger's team was voted No. 1 by the major polls—the Associated Press, the United Press International's Board of Coaches, the Football Writers, and the National Football Foundation.

Nebraska, beaten by Miami in the Orange Bowl by a single point when a two-point conversion failed, was No. 2, and Auburn, defeated only by Texas early in the year, was voted No. 3.

Heading into the January 2 matchups, the top five looked like this: 1, undefeated Nebraska (11-0); 2, Texas (11-0); 3, Auburn (10-1); 4, Illinois (10-1); 5, Miami (10-1). In the UPI poll, Miami was No. 4 and Illinois No. 5.

Nebraska, a powerful offensive machine with flashy Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier and Outland Trophy winner Dean Steinkuhler, was a whopping favorite. Schnellenberger had a dream that not only would his team defeat the Huskers, but the other teams also would lose. And on the afternoon of January 2, things started happening.

Texas did lose, and then Illinois was soundly thrashed in the Rose Bowl by UCLA. Auburn was playing Michigan in the Sugar Bowl at the same time Miami was challenging Nebraska.

By the time Miami took the field against the Huskers, the Hurricanes did, indeed, have a chance to be No. 1. And, immediately, Miami set about dominating the game, jumping to an early lead and a solid halftime margin.

Scoring against Nebraska really wasn't a problem, but stopping the Huskers was something else. The Huskers rallied to take the lead, but Miami, using Nebraska mistakes, forged a 31-24 margin going into the final minutes.

Nebraska powered its way downfield, and even though Irving Fryar dropped a pass that would have tied the score with plenty of time left, it was down to the last minute before the Huskers made it across the goal line. Immediately, coach Tom Osborne decided to go for the two-point conversion. Though the pass was almost on target, it was batted away, and the Hurricane dream came true.

Can it happen again? Probably not for Miami in 1984, even though Schnellenberger's team proved again that you can win the national championship with one loss—if the loss is early in the year. You can't

do it by losing in a bowl game, as aptly demonstrated by Nebraska and Texas.

Taking last year's top 20 teams and juggling them around a little is still about the only formula you have for picking a preseason ranking. Each of those teams is affected by graduation losses, of course, and the strength of its schedule varies from year to year, but by and large, teams with winning programs usually continue to win. And those that haven't found the right formula seem to struggle.

A team that aspires to No. 1 must have, above all, the talent. And it must have the coaching. It must have a favorable schedule, too—although sometimes it is not a matter of playing easier teams, but in playing the tougher teams at the right time.

Above all, and surely this was demonstrated last season in the bowl games, there is simply a matter of good fortune and circumstance.

The national title usually is decided on that final bowl day. If Nebraska had won easily, as expected, it would have been No. 1, but anything can happen in that "second season," as some call the bowl games.

The principals of those bowl games—Miami, Nebraska, Texas, Illinois, Auburn, Ohio State, UCLA, Michigan—are still in the picture for No. 1 in 1984. And so are a few others.

Sometimes, you have to approach the annual guesswork in a negative manner. You have to list reasons why a team can't be No. 1, as well as reasons why it can.

Take Nebraska. How many teams can lose talent such as Rozier, Steinkuhler, top NFL draft choice Fryar, and quarterback Turner Gill (29-2 as a starter) and expect to repeat as No. 1?

Or Miami, a team that didn't have a single No. 1 All-America choice, but nonetheless won the top team prize. Can Miami come back again in 1984, with a new head coach, against a tough schedule, and after losing some of its top defensive people?

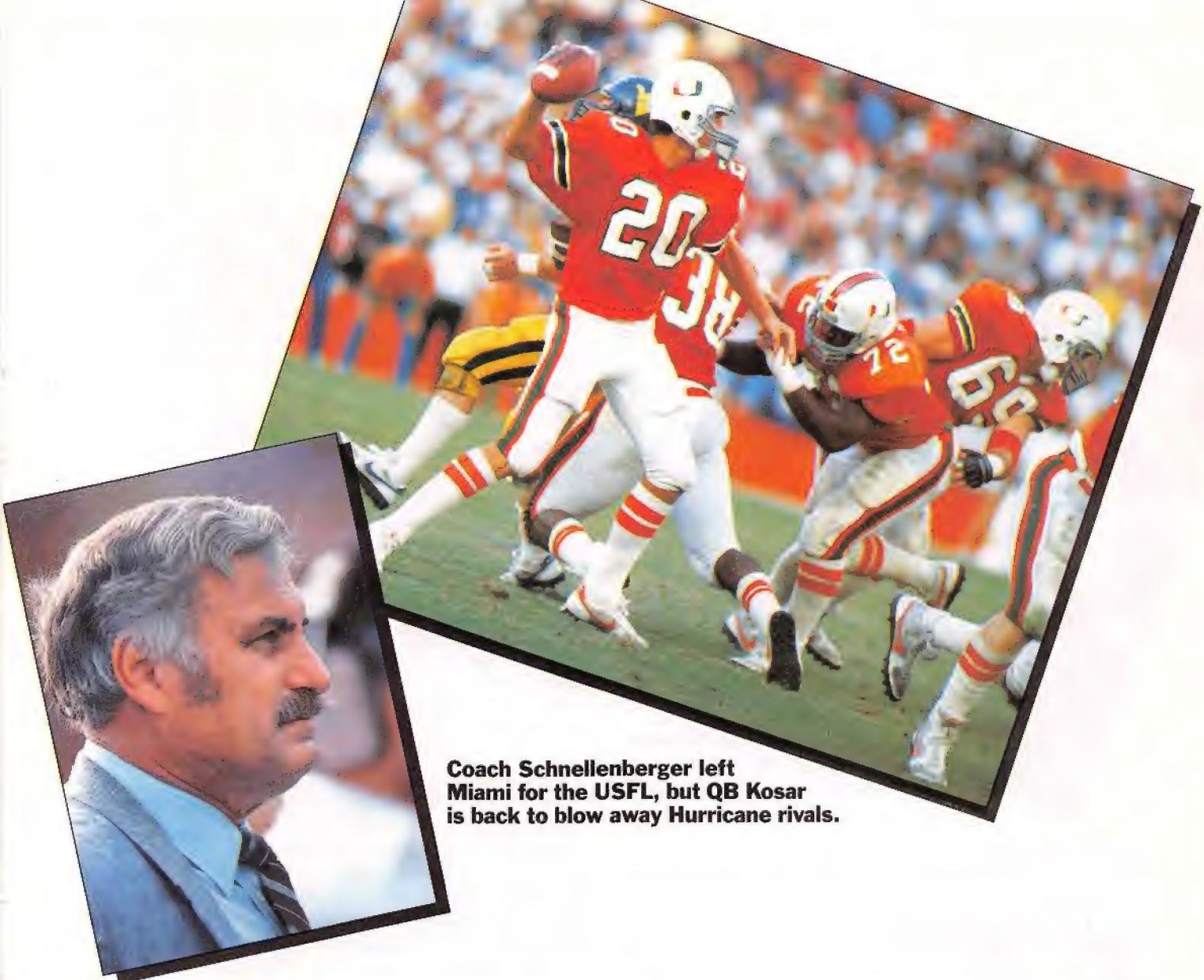
Or can Auburn, despite the presence of the awesome Bo Jackson, survive a schedule that includes Miami (in the preseason special in Giants Stadium), then a trip to Texas, and a November schedule of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama, all on the road?

Then there is the annual battle for supremacy in the Big 10. In a conference once dominated by Ohio State and Michigan, outsider Illinois surprised last year, and Iowa in 1981. The Buckeyes and the Wolverines will be tough again, but coach Hayden Fry has built a powerhouse defense and the Hawkeyes will be tough to handle.

Spring injuries sometimes change things, too. Ohio State was expected to be the power in the conference, but lost top quarterback Mike Tomczak with a broken leg in a spring game. Is he healthy enough to send the Buckeyes to Pasadena?

The Rose Bowl matchup of the Big 10 vs. the Pac-10 hasn't decided the national title for a few years, but UCLA, with its continuing successful program, should be strong again. And though cross-town rival Southern California might be down a little, the Trojans are always tough, as I well know.

In the Southwest, Texas lost most of its defense, but again should battle SMU and improving Texas A&M for the title.



Coach Schnellenberger left Miami for the USFL, but QB Kosar is back to blow away Hurricane rivals.

Independent teams—Miami and Penn State in the last two years—have been impressive, too. Both should be strong again, as will Pittsburgh, Boston College, and my surprise pick of the year, Notre Dame.

The Irish aren't just my sentimental choice, though they have been disappointing the last three years. Coach Gerry Faust has assembled his own team now, and it is talented. Notre Dame just hasn't been consistent enough to be a big winner, frequently failing on both offense and defense inside the 10-yard line. This could be the year that consistency—and winning—comes back in a big way.

Consistency long has been the forte of Nebraska, my choice for No. 1. The Cornhuskers came close last time, and that kind of incentive should spur them on to another remarkable year, even though perennial winner Oklahoma, getting-tougher Oklahoma State, and Missouri are all threats in the Big 8.

Look for coach Tom Osborne to get his team back to the Orange Bowl, and for consistency to overcome the impossible dream this time.

Here's how the top 20 will look on January 2:

1 NEBRASKA

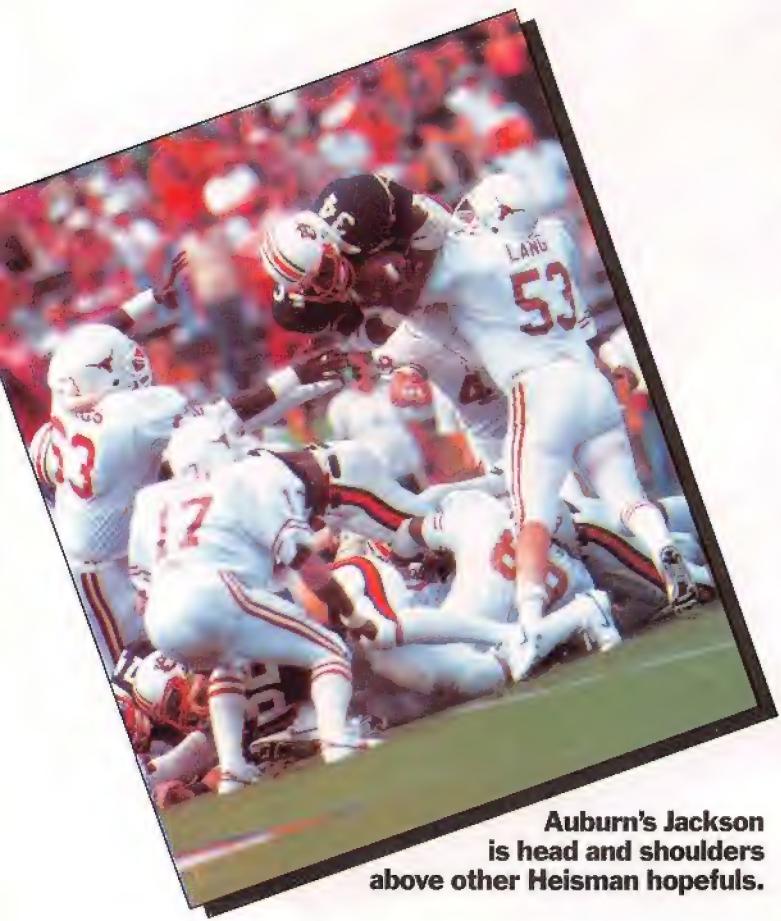
IN HIS 11 SEASONS AS HEAD COACH OF NEBRASKA, since replacing Bob Devaney in 1973, Tom Osborne's teams have not yet won a national championship. But the Huskers have

been threatening every year and this surely could be their time.

Replacing the talented people at the skill positions will be a tough task, but the program is solid, with almost unbelievable depth. There are 53 lettermen returning, including eight defensive starters. There would have been nine, except that linebacker Mike Knox suffered knee-ligament damage in the spring and the injury had to be surgically repaired. Though Knox insists he will be ready by fall, he probably will be redshirted (what other color shirts are there at Nebraska?) during a recovery season.

Craig Sunburg or Travis Turner will fall heir to the quarterback job handled so expertly by Turner Gill for three seasons, and Jeff Smith is the most likely I-back to replace Rozier, though Paul Miles and Doug Dubonse are in that fight. Smith distinguished himself during the Orange Bowl loss to Miami by stepping in for an injured Rozier and gaining 99 yards, with two touchdowns, on just nine carries. It was Smith who scored the TD that brought the Huskers within a point in the final minute, before Nebraska's two-point conversion attempt failed. At quarterback, Turner is the favorite after enjoying an outstanding spring.

Of more importance, perhaps, to the offense is the up-front presence of center Mark Traynowicz, 6'6", 290-pound tackle Mark Behning, and guard Harry Crimlinger. They are all-Big 8 caliber linemen. Though the schedule does include a September trip to potent UCLA, the other nonconference games are against Minne-



Auburn's Jackson
is head and shoulders
above other Heisman hopefuls.

sota, Wyoming, and Syracuse. The toughest conference opponents—Missouri, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State—all visit Lincoln, where the Huskers are awesome.

2 CLEMSON

THE TIGERS HAVEN'T LOST AN ATLANTIC COAST Conference game since 1980 and are an overall 30-2-2 in the last three seasons. Quarterback Tom Eppley heads a talented offensive cast, and the defense is centered on talented middle guard William Perry.

Nine starters are back on offense, including top rushers Stacey Driver (774 yards in 1983) and sophomore Kenny Flowers (557 yards). Terrence Flagler, Clemson's leading rusher after the first two games last season, before he was hurt, also returns. Four of five starting offensive linemen remain, so look for the Tigers to continue a three-year pattern of running the ball down the opposition's throat on three of every four plays. Outside of the ACC, the only tough opponent on Clemson's schedule is rebuilding Georgia.

3 AUBURN

EXCEPT FOR A MONSTER SCHEDULE (MIAMI AND Texas at the start, and road games at Florida, Georgia, and Alabama in November), coach Pat Dye's team would be the most likely choice for No. 1. The Tigers lost only to Texas last year, playing about the same schedule.

Many say running back Bo Jackson, a junior, is a shoo-in for the Heisman Trophy, and there are 11 starters back from the Southeastern Conference champions who won a tense battle with Michigan in the Sugar Bowl. Inexperience could hamper the offense, with split end Clayton Beauford the sole senior assured of a starting berth. On defense, the Tigers will rely on a trio of returning all-SEC perform-

ers—senior linebacker Gregg Carr, senior cornerback David King, and junior defensive end Gerald Robinson.

Dye is doing a fantastic recruiting job, and incoming defensive end Ron Stallworth has been labeled "another Ross Browner." If he is, Dye really has something.

4 MIAMI

QUARTERBACK BERNIE KOSAR AND KEY PASS TARGET Eddie Brown head up the offensive cast for the defending national champions, who lost head coach Howard Schnellenberger to the United States Football League during the summer. New coach Jimmy Johnson, who arrives from Oklahoma State, will also depend on some heavy running from 6'1", 223-pound fullback Alonzo Highsmith. But the key will be Kosar, who threw for 2,329 yards and 15 touchdowns last season as a freshman.

Defensively, Miami lost seven starters, but several returning lettermen gained adequate game experience and the defense could be even better. Senior strong safety Ken Calhoun, third on the team in tackles in '83 with 96, knocked away the two-point conversion attempt by Nebraska that sealed Miami's Orange Bowl upset.

The schedule—Auburn, Florida (at Tampa), Michigan, and Purdue on the road to start, then Florida State, Notre Dame, Boston College, Pittsburgh, and Maryland—is the Hurricanes' toughest ever.

5 NOTRE DAME

THE IRISH LOST THREE STRAIGHT NOVEMBER games to Pittsburgh, Penn State, and Air Force by a total margin of 10 points, but edged Boston College in the Liberty Bowl by a point for a 7-5 record. While Gerry Faust realizes the record easily could have been 11-1 (there was a five-point loss to Michigan State in the season's second game), he says: "We've got talented football players. It's a matter of putting things together so we can play consistently good football for 11 straight weeks."

The Irish faithful agree. With sophomore quarterback Steve Beuerlein, the immensely talented tailback Allen Pinkett (1,394 yards and 16 TDs in '83), and tandem fullbacks Chris Smith and Mark Brooks, the backfield seems set. Mark Bavaro is a great tight end, and the size and caliber of both the offensive and defensive lines will match most top teams. The problem, as Faust says, is putting it all together.

6 IOWA

WITH ALL 11 STARTERS RETURNING ON DEFENSE, and quarterback Chuck Long to direct the offense, Iowa could move to the top of the Big 10. Coach Hayden Fry certainly has turned the Hawkeyes around and made the former "Big Two," Ohio State and Michigan, take notice. The Hawkeyes do play Ohio State on the road, but the other toughies on the schedule—Iowa State, Penn State, Illinois, and Michigan—all visit Iowa City.

Iowa's defense looks awesome, anchored by junior All-America linebacker Larry Station, senior all-Big 10 tackle Paul Hufford, and senior all-conference strong safety Mike Stoops. There's great depth on defense, too—nine members of last season's second unit return. On offense, Long will get help from senior tailback Owen Gill, the Hawkeyes' leading rusher in '83.

7 PENN STATE

THE SCHEDULE IS STAGGERING, WITH IOWA, Texas, Notre Dame, Alabama, Boston College, and Pittsburgh, but Joe Paterno is a crafty, disciplined coach who seldom lets a game get away from him.

Quarterback Doug Strang passed for 1,944 yards and 19 TDs last season, but will miss departed wide receivers Kenny Jackson and Kevin Baugh. Tailback D. J. Dozier gained 1,002 yards last season,

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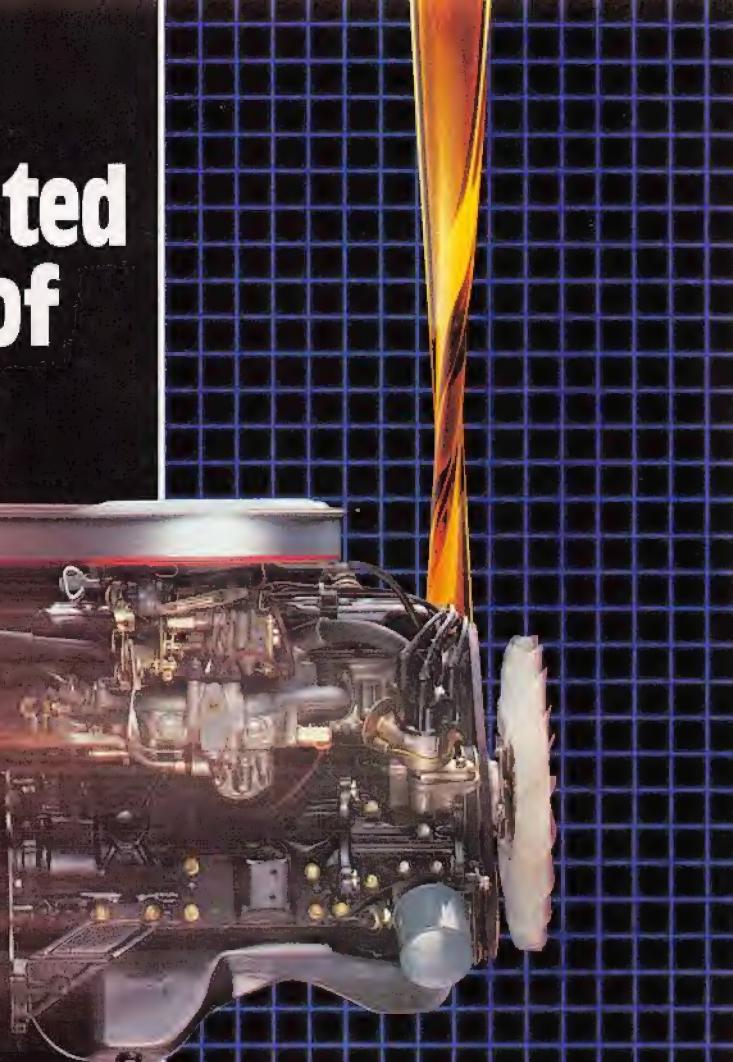
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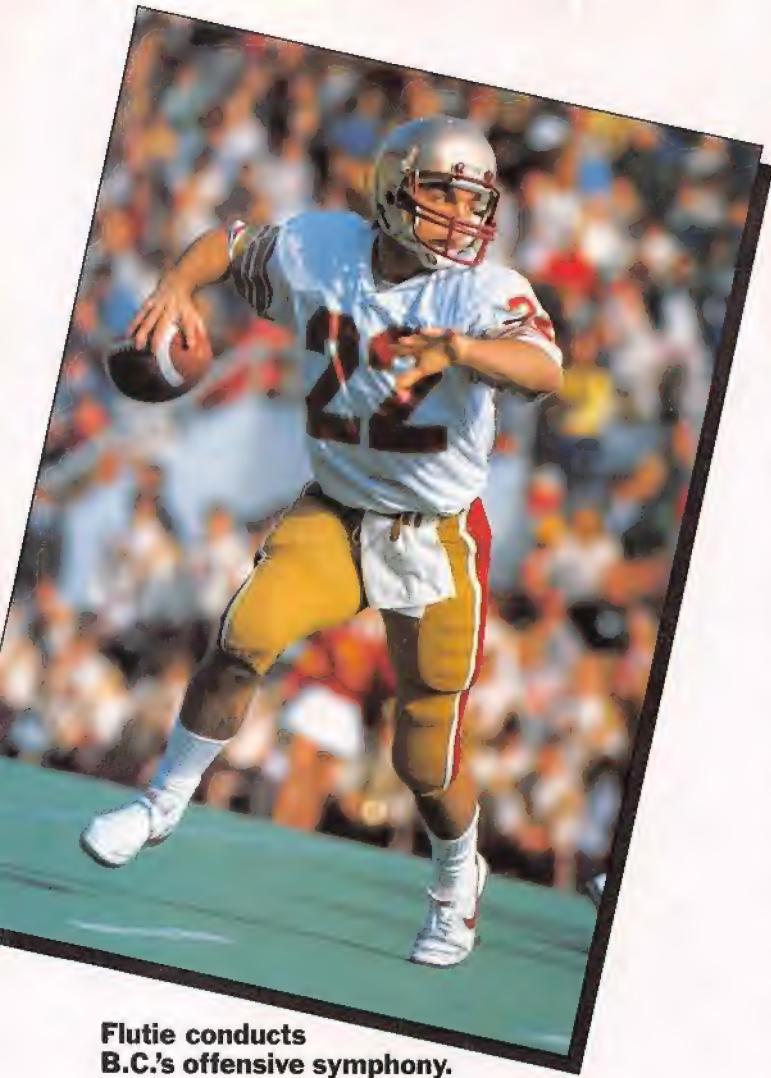
FACT: Pennzoil was first to introduce friction reducers in all their multi-vis oils.

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**Flutie conducts
B.C.'s offensive symphony.**

becoming the first, in the long line of talented Penn State running backs, to break that barrier as a freshman. Only six defensive starters return, led by linebackers Carmen Masciantonio, Rogers Alexander, and Shane Conlan.

8 OHIO STATE

INSIDERS SAY THE RECRUITING JOB DONE BY coach Earle Bruce and his staff in the last few years has produced talent the likes of which the Buckeyes haven't seen in a long time. The uncertain status of quarterback Mike Tomczak, who suffered a broken leg during spring drills, clouds Ohio State's 1984 outlook. Much is expected of tailback Keith Byars, who led the Big 10 in rushing (1,199 yards) and scoring (22 touchdowns) as a sophomore in '83. Defensively, only three starters are back—defensive tackles Dave Morrill and Dave Crecelius, and safety Kelvin Bell.

The Buckeyes' nonconference foes, Washington State and Oregon State, aren't exactly powerhouses, and Big 10 rivals Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan must come to Columbus. If Tomczak returns, or Bruce finds an adequate replacement, look out!

9 PITTSBURGH

THE DEFENSE-MINDED PANTHERS THRIVED DESPITE an inconsistent offense last year, but with Outland Trophy-marked Bill Fralic—one of the great players in the nation—at tackle and a seasoned John Congemi running the show at quarterback, coach Foge Fazio's team could move up. Much will depend on whether freshmen can help a depleted running back corps. Senior split end Barry Wallace led the Panthers a year ago

with 45 receptions for 727 yards and eight touchdowns.

On defense, Pittsburgh will depend on senior linebacker Troy Benson and senior defensive end Chris Doleman. Benson led the Panthers with 162 tackles last season.

10 UCLA

AFTER DIRECTING HIS BRUINS TO A 45-9 rout of favored Illinois in the Rose Bowl last January, Terry Donahue is the new Wizard of Westwood. UCLA started 0-3-1 last year, then won seven of its last eight. This year, there's an early toughie against Nebraska, but the Bruins have seven home games and don't play Pac-10 rivals Washington or Arizona.

Eight regulars return on offense, plus two players who split time at fullback. The quarterback will be senior Steve Bono, who threw for 399 yards and three touchdowns last season against Brigham Young before being sidelined by a separated right shoulder. Protecting Bono will be senior tackle Duval Love, a 6'3", 273-pound All-America candidate. Wide receiver Mike Sherrard, a junior who hauled in 48 passes in '83, is outstanding. The defense will be led by senior linebacker Neal Dellocono, who earned honorable mention All-America honors last year.

11 MICHIGAN

QUARTERBACK STEVE SMITH IS GONE AND so are some of Michigan's finest players, but the important returnee—Bo Schembechler—remains the dean of Big 10 head coaches. Finding a quarterback never has been a problem for Bo. Some of his best—Smith, Rick Leach, and Dennis Franklin—were first-year starters. I watched Michigan's spring game and am convinced the Wolverines will be up there again, primarily because of Bo and a talented staff that includes several former major-college head coaches.

Perennially powerful on defense, the Wolverines welcome back eight starters, including all-Big 10 middle guard Al Sincich and linebacker Mike Mallory, who led Michigan with 119 tackles last season.

12 TEXAS

THE LONGHORNS AREN'T REALLY DOWN. IT'S just that coach Fred Akers builds around his defense, and nine of his 1983 starters are gone. There were 26 seniors on that 11-1 team, and 17 were selected in the National Football League draft. All-American Jerry Gray returns at free safety and all-Southwest Conference defensive tackle Tony Degrade anchors the line, but new faces will dot the rest of the unit.

A stable of gifted running backs will power the offense, although sophomore Edwin Simmons is questionable after surgery on both knees. The Longhorns lost four interior linemen and their starting tight end, so creating holes for the back could be a problem. The field goal will be a vital element in the Texas arsenal—placekicker Jeff Ward converted on 15 of 16 attempts in '83.

Count on Texas to maintain its winning tradition, but a nonconference schedule of Auburn, Oklahoma, and Penn State squelches national championship hopes.

13 BOSTON COLLEGE

DOUG FLUTIE. NEED WE SAY MORE? WELL, this small but mighty quarterback is a senior and should make another run at the Heisman Trophy, having thrown for 7,279 yards and 40 touchdowns in two-and-a-half seasons. Against Penn State alone, Flutie has passed for 900 yards during the last two years.

There's more. All-America tight end Scott Gieselman is back after catching 45 passes for 525 yards as a junior. Also returning on offense is junior running back Troy Stradford, who led the Eagles in rushing



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(810 yards) for the second straight year in '83, despite missing three games with a knee injury. Protecting Flutie will be four returning starters in the offensive line, led by All-America tackle Mark MacDonald.

The Eagles will need all their offensive weapons and a sturdy defense, as well, to survive a schedule that lists trips to Alabama, Penn State, and Miami, and a visit to New England by North Carolina.

14 OKLAHOMA

AT LAST WORD, COACH BARRY SWITZER WAS going back to his favorite offensive formation, the wishbone. He knows it well, and sophomore running backs Spencer Tillman and Earl Johnson have the explosiveness to make it work again. Directing the attack will be senior quarterback Danny Bradley, who gained 426 yards rushing in '83 and passed for more yardage (1,125) than any Sooner signalcaller since 1969. Bradley's favorite target is split end Buster Rhymes, who led Oklahoma with 32 receptions last season.

The Sooners will have to rebuild on defense after losing tackles Rick Bryan and Bob Slater, linebackers Jackie Shipp and Thomas Benson, and safety Scott Case to the NFL. Senior defensive end Kevin Murphy is All-America caliber, and nose guard Tony Casillas and back Keith Stanberry also excel. The Sooners could surprise.

15 ALABAMA

COACH RAY PERKINS HAD THE TIDE MOVING last year, but will be without versatile quarterback Walter Lewis this season. Among the candidates to fill the vacancy are Mike Shula—son of the Miami Dolphins coach—freshman Gene Newberry, and redshirt Hugh Smith. Perkins has 15 regulars back from the Sun Bowl team that trounced SMU, nine on defense. Big things are expected from sophomore nose guard Curt Jarvis, junior defensive tackle Jon Hand, sophomore linebacker Cornelius Bennett, and sophomore free safety Freddie Robinson. Senior linebacker Emanuel King led the Tide with 84 tackles last season.

The Tide rolled up a whopping 30.7 points per game in the rugged Southeastern Conference in '83. Much of the offensive burden this season will be shouldered by sophomore halfback Kerry Goode, who averaged 6.7 yards per carry as a freshman. Alabama has talent, size, and depth, but will need it to succeed in the SEC.

16 WASHINGTON

AS IS THE CASE AT MICHIGAN, THE HUSKIES will be tough contenders again because of their coach. Don James, who in nine years in Seattle has won 75 games and three Pac-10 titles, knows how to put a team together. Quarterback Steve Pelluer is gone and will be missed. The top candidates to replace him are Hugh Millen, a junior walk-on from last season's scout squad, and redshirt Chris Chandler. The receiving corps returns intact, featuring wide men Mark Pattison (38 receptions for 400 yards in 1983) and Danny Greene (37 receptions, 599 yards, 16.2 average, and five touchdowns), and tight end Tony Wroten. Senior Jacque Robinson, seventh on the all-time Huskies rushing list, and senior Ron (Cookie) Jackson will give Washington a potent ground attack.

Six starters are back on defense, led by senior tackle Ron Holmes, an all-Pac-10 performer. Placekicker Jeff Jaeger earned freshman All-America honors last season by connecting on 20 of 26 field goals, including nine of 12 from 40 yards and beyond. The Huskies get a break in their schedule, with no games against UCLA or Arizona State, but must visit Michigan in September.

17 ARIZONA STATE

AN EIGHT-GAME HOME SCHEDULE COULD help coach Darryl Rogers, who has revitalized the Sun

Devils both on offense and defense. There is always plenty of talent in Tempe. Speedster Darryl Clack enters his junior season as the defending Pac-10 rushing champion, after gaining 932 yards in 10 games last year. The defense boasts all-conference strong safety David Fulcher, and linebackers Jimmy Williams and Greg Battle.

Sun Devils placekicker Luis Zendejas earned All-America laurels as a junior by nailing 28 of 37 field goal attempts. During three seasons in Tempe, Zendejas has scored 295 points and converted 44 of 48 field goal attempts from inside 40 yards.

18 FLORIDA STATE

AGAIN, YOU CAN GO WITH THE COACH. Bobby Bowden's teams play exciting football, and he has plenty of talent returning. The Seminoles welcome back their top two rushers, Greg Allen (1,167 yards in 1983) and Roosevelt Snipes (629 yards). Star receiver Jesse Hester (31 receptions, six TDs) will spice up the passing game. Defensively, Florida State will look to senior safety Brian McCrary and senior linebacker Henry Taylor for leadership. Don't forget that Florida State came within one play (a last-second field goal) of upending Miami last December.

19 GEORGIA

COACH VINCE DOOLEY IS REBUILDING, THEY say. Well, I say that Dooley is always building. After almost two decades in Athens, he is a proven winner who will have the Bulldogs in the SEC hunt again, despite the loss of 23 seniors.

Only three starters return on offense—senior split end Kevin Harris, junior flanker Herman Archie, and junior center Keith Johnson, an All-America candidate. On defense, the Junkyard Dogs will be mean up front, with four of five starting linemen back. Senior linebacker Knox Culpepper set a school record with 166 tackles last season. A welcome addition will be senior safety Jeff Sanchez, an all-SEC choice in 1982 who sat out last year with an injury.

Senior placekicker Kevin Butler, one of only five kickers in NCAA history with 50 or more field goals and an accuracy mark of 75% or better, makes Georgia a scoring threat from midfield.

20 FLORIDA

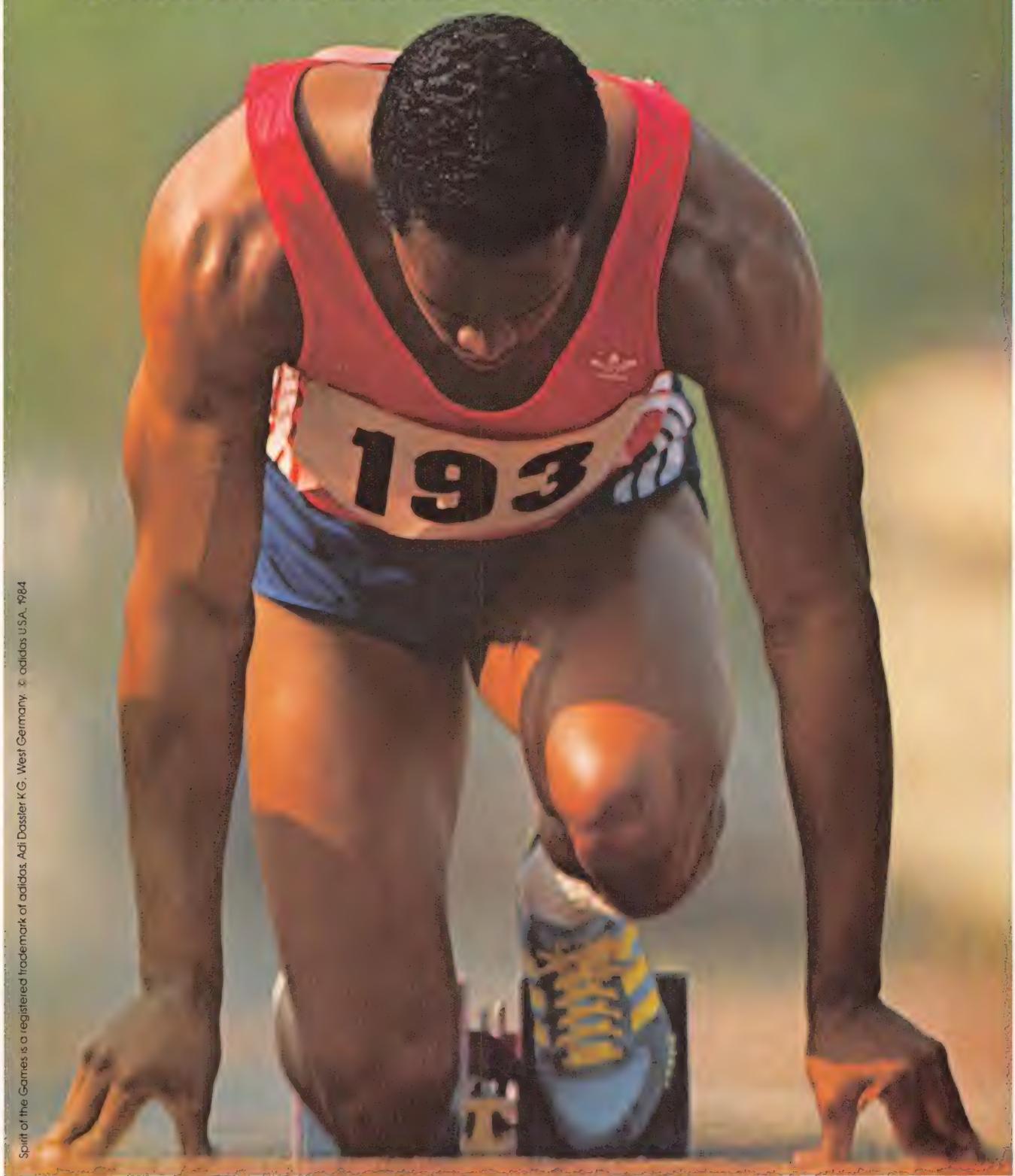
QUARTERBACK WAYNE PEACE AND LINEBACKER Wilber Marshall are gone, but the Gators again have solid talent. Seven starters remain on offense, including all-SEC center Phil Bromley and leading rusher Neal Anderson (835 yards and nine TDs). Nose guard Tim Newton and linebacker Mark Korff anchor the defense. The specter of NCAA probation hangs in the air, but it didn't disturb coach Charlie Pell and his team last season.

AMONG THE SLEEPERS, SMU IS 21-2-1 IN TWO SEASONS with Bobby Collins, and could surprise again. Oklahoma State has a top tailback, Shawn Jones, and a great defense. Tennessee has been building slowly under Johnny Majors and has tailback Johnnie Jones, but lost baseball-minded quarterback Alan Cockrell. Louisiana State has some great talent returning for defensive-thinking Bill Arnsparger, fresh from Don Shula's Miami Dolphins staff. Quarterback Jeff Wickersham is a good one. At North Carolina, Dick Crum keeps on winning, though his Tar Heels didn't live up to our No. 1 billing last year.

Those are the picks for 1984, and from the special Miami-Auburn opening game until the last gasp of the season in the January 1 Orange Bowl, the "We're No. 1" chants will rock stadiums across the land. I can hardly wait for it to start. ■

ARA PARSEGHIAN, now a color analyst during CBS-TV's college football telecasts, coached Notre Dame to three national championships. Last year, Ara selected North Carolina as his top team, and had Miami ranked 17th.

He has waited a lifetime for the next ten seconds.



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The Anchorman Next Door

Jim McKay, Mr. Olympics, is the reliable and trustworthy neighbor to millions of fans

By TOM JACKSON

DETERMINATION AND PATIENCE. It's so simple, really, so obvious. And Jim McKay knew it all along.

But in a world where hair spray, stop action, sentences with verbs but no subjects, and reverse-angle replays reign; where the moment matters, but not the morning after; and the most valuable course of study is 10th-grade orthodontics, who would have guessed determination and patience—the

trusted allies of an unhurried era trampled by cable-ready VCRs and Dolby sound, Action News, and nighttime soaps—would ever command center stage again?

Further, in a world of New! Improved! Bigger! Faster! Shinier!, Jim McKay is essentially the same package he was almost 30 years ago—yes, 30 years—when a network first turned its cameras on his friendly, unhandsome face.

Nevertheless, it is this personification of determination and patience who is presiding over ABC's unprecedented, overwhelming \$400-million, 188-hour Summer Olympics





After nearly four years in the South Atlantic, former Navy Lt. James McManus understood the sea, understood what motivated shipboard men. Once, when his minesweeper put into San Diego to begin 30 days of preparation for inspection, he arranged a task-reward system. With the completion of each day's list of jobs, the crew got shore leave. "We had the best ship of any down there, because these guys would do anything to get out on early leave."

That was simple. "You can't lash people into doing anything," the erstwhile ship's captain knew. But television was McManus/McKay's chosen profession, and that was confusing. Formats changed, shows moved from coast to coast, and all of it happened overnight. Men were hired and fired the same day. So he built miniature warships. The first was a large gray battleship. Then came a destroyer, and after that an elaborate, elegant sailing frigate on which the rigging alone took weeks to complete.

"I was aware that there were problems," a reflective Sean McManus says now. "All my buddies at school had dads, and all their dads worked during the day." Even so, the boy's mother promised there was nothing to be concerned about. "He's waiting for a better job to come along," she said simply.

Young Sean was unconvinced. When his dad made him a gift of the battleship, the boy's eyes watered. "Dad," he whispered, tracing the bow of the big ship with his forefinger, "are you going to build ships for the rest of your life?"

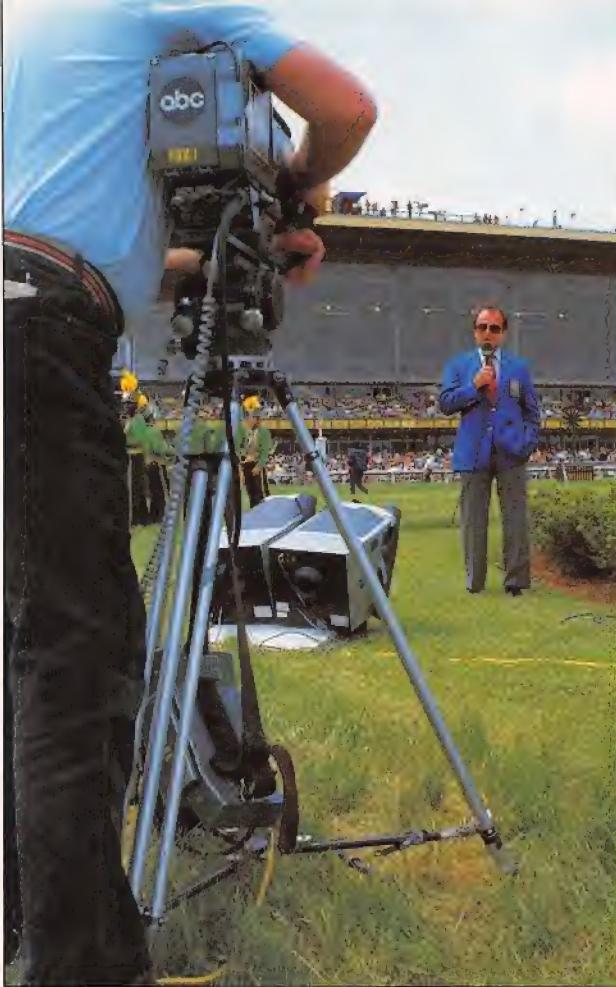
The man sagged, then sighed: "I hope not, son. I hope not."

Twenty-four years later, McManus, the youngest vice president in the history of NBC Sports, keeps that same battleship on a shelf in his old bedroom, one of four dwellings his parents maintain today. "An appropriate reminder," he says, "of the gray period in my father's life."

Clearly, the shades of Jim McKay's existence—as well as the last name he uses in public—have changed decisively since his shipbuilding period. Color him green, as in prosperous; gold, as in valuable; and navy blue, as in durable and always appropriate. For nearly a quarter of a century, McKay has been ABC Sports' go-everywhere, do-everything host of its ambitious "Wide World of Sports." As ABC televises its fourth Summer Olympics, it is difficult to recall when reliable, gentle Jim McKay wasn't America's voice at the Games.

Still, for those who lived them, the lean times are difficult to forget. "Before 'Wide World,'" McManus remembers, "my father didn't have a job, he didn't have a lot of money, and he had nothing on the horizon." What he had mostly was the faith of a strong, organized wife and a virtually inexhaustible

'Looking into that lens, it's a one-on-one relationship.'



effort. Reliable. Trustworthy. Gentle. Sincere. Jim McKay. Says Dennis Lewin, ABC's vice president for production coordination, "There's no situation you can name I wouldn't want Jim there with me."

There aren't many about whom Lewin can say that. In fact, he stops calling the roll after just one other name: Howard Cosell. Abrasive, haughty, self-serving Cosell. ABC's resident intellectual and supreme egotist, he is the announcer who will never settle for a two-syllable word when six syllables will do. The on-air antithesis to all that is good old, unpretentious Jim McKay.

"If I'm in a situation where all hell is breaking loose," Lewin says, "I'd want a Jim McKay or a Howard Cosell. Consummate professionals who are able to maintain their poise no matter what happens, then put it in perspective, those guys are at the top of the list."

The obvious irony is not lost on Lewin. On any ranking of audience preferences, McKay and Cosell would certainly be at opposite poles. Closer inspection shows, however, that for all their differences, their longevity suggests McKay and Cosell share duplicate bottom lines.

Dedication and patience.

With that as a philosophical formula, it's a cinch, at the very least, this is not an "overnight success" story. "Overnight recognition," maybe. But success—the un-

qualified, celebrated variety—arrived late in McKay's career. Happily, it has decided to stay.

"It's never been skyrockets for us," says his wife, Margaret, an exuberant, indomitable woman of unflagging faith and with a halo of golden hair. Appropriately, McKay thinks of her as a saint. "I have seen his popularity grow and grow and grow over the years until sometimes it is almost overwhelming. You can hardly go anywhere that somebody doesn't stop and say, 'We think you're Mr. Olympics; we think you're the best thing there is on television.'

"He wears so well. It's not something that's risen quickly and is now falling. It just grows and grows."

"He is having the best time of his life right now," his son, Sean McManus, says. "He has a feeling of achievement. No one is ever going to say he didn't earn his piece of the rock."

SEAN McMANUS WAS SIX YEARS old when his dad, once the captain of a World War II mine sweeper, began to spend afternoons at home assembling model ships. Say what you will about global conflict, a man knew where he stood during the war, and there was darn little unemployment. But this was 1960, and the world had become a puzzle; when a man lost his job, he reached out for what he understood.

well of energy. Both served him abundantly en route to his status as America's longest running Olympic hero.

Why do we love Jim McKay? Let us count the reasons.

If ever a man was built for the 19-inch screen, it is McKay. Agreeably short and compact, McKay nestles easily into shots where bigger men feel a squeeze. At 5'6", he is the proper height to interview jockeys and race-car drivers.

Then there is that face. That marvelous, honest, *unintimidating* face. In an era that celebrates good looks, megahair, and tooth-paste-commercial smiles, McKay's slightly jowly, undashing countenance is refreshingly out of place. His hair, brown and haystack straight, defies the comb; moreover, it has long since begun to thin at the crown. But despite the approach of his mid-60s, the only gray on his head is in the modest splashes at his temples.

Mostly, though, we admire how dedicated he is to his principles—both professional and personal. Once, in his battleship-building period, a cigarette company approached him about doing a commercial. McKay, himself a nonsmoker, refused. "How could I do that? Those things are killers." More recently, a hair-dye-for-men company requested his services for an advertising campaign, and again he demurred, even though their con-

tract offered \$100,000. "Jim just laughed," Margaret recalls. Says McKay, "I could never do anything so tacky."

Mckay's personal convictions flow naturally into his work. He likes his athletes brave, trustworthy, clean, drug-free, and thrifty, although he's realistic enough to know the world no longer spins that way. As one who wields considerable power in America's foremost medium, he simply wishes it would. "Despite what some of them say, athletes do have a responsibility to kids. I think it's one of the things that goes with the territory. Some athlete said, 'I only have to perform for myself. My spare time is my own business. Small kids should not learn their primary lessons from, nor should they have as their primary idol, some sports hero they don't even know. Their first hero ought to be their father.' Of course," McKay says, "that's absolutely true. But it's also a cop-out. For better or worse, those kids do sit and watch, and these are the guys [they idolize]. And there's no question that [television] helps make them the guys. It's that live quality. There they are, right in front of you."

Mckay prefers his sports stories triumphant. "In politics or crime reporting, there's more of a responsibility to dig and dig and dig, because it affects people's lives. But sports, after all, are just fun and games." Sensing the same qualities in ourselves is

what helps make McKay so genuine. He avoids hype. "I don't want any part of 'Battle of the Network Stars,'" he says, his lips curled bitterly. "And the Super Bowl . . . now, you talk about hype." As of midsummer, ABC had not asked McKay to become part of its first Super Bowl telecast, set for next January. "And I hope they don't," he says.

It is this sincere lack of self—McKay's greatest strength—that would make him an unlikely candidate for the job he holds today if he hadn't begun it in the early '60s. "We screen cassettes all the time," NBC vice president McManus says, "and, I'll tell you, if a cassette came in today with my father on it—unless we were looking very carefully, he is not the kind of person who, on the first look or first listen, is the one who would impress us the most. He's not the best-looking . . . he's not the smoothest. The qualities that come through eventually are the more important qualities, which is a warmth, a likability."

Above all, there is steadfast Margaret, admiring her man. "It's impressive that one person could take this medium, which is so crummy at its pits," she says, "and survive and last and grow."

MUNICH, SEPTEMBER 5, 1972—Black September. Jim McKay was supposed to have

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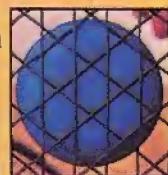
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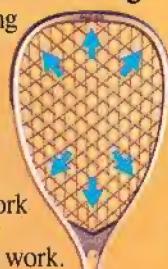
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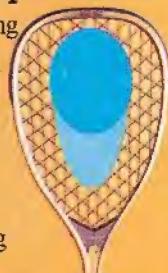
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the day off the morning eight Palestinian terrorists broke into the Israeli dormitory in the Olympic Village. Back in his hotel room, the phone broke McKay's slumber. It was Jeff Mason, now at NBC, then an assistant to ABC Sports president Roone Arledge. "Something terrible has happened," he said, recounting the catastrophic events of the morning. Two athletes were already dead; the terrorists threatened there would be more unless political concessions were made, prisoners in Israeli jails released. "Roone wants you to stand by."

Each previous morning, McKay had prepared himself for telecasts by swimming in the hotel's basement pool, then taking a sauna. Numbly, McKay decided to resume that schedule, so that he was in the sauna trying to assemble his thoughts when Mason called again. "You better get over here," he said. "We're going on the air in 45 minutes and Roone wants you to anchor."

The rest of the day—13 dramatic, tragic hours that put an indelible stamp on McKay's career—have become a blur. Moreover, says McKay, "I've never sat down and watched the tape."

What McKay recalls most vividly ranges from the tragically sublime—his daughter, Mary, was with a crowd who had come to watch when the helicopter carrying the terrorists and their hostages to the Munich airport took off ("Dad, it was terrible," she said, "because when they went up, they were so close you could almost feel you could touch them")—to the ridiculous. Only when he got back to his hotel room did he realize he was still wearing a damp swimsuit under his slacks.

McKay commanded the anchor seat by drawing on all that he had learned in more than two decades in the business of communications, lending his redoubtable storytelling technique and bountiful, heartfelt human emotions to the unfolding massacre. ABC newsman Sam Donaldson was nearby, but Arledge put his faith in McKay. "All I could think about was that the family of a kid named David Burger [an American youth who had taken up citizenship in Israel and was on the team as a weightlifter] was sitting in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and I'd probably be the person to tell them whether their son was dead or alive. We were extra careful to make sure of everything before we put it on the air."

Back in the States, Americans sat riveted to their television screens, aching for the athletes at the same time they were warming to this vaguely familiar man with the thinning brown hair and the kind, mellow voice. Critics were impressed. McKay would win an Emmy and the year's only George Polk Memorial Award for Journalism for his reporting of the Black September attack. Through the years, McKay has gathered 10

Emmys—television's Oscar—while no other sports announcer has won twice; yet his awards in the aftermath of Munich are, understandably, his most precious. More important, America had fallen in love. In the week that followed the close of the Munich Olympics, the post office delivered letters by the van load, more than 7,500 total.

"How about that?" Lewin said, bemused. "After 25 years, you're an overnight success."

Recalls McManus: "Before Munich, when we'd go out to eat as a family, people who thought they recognized him would say, 'Aren't you Curt Gowdy?' Or, 'I know you. You're that fellow from 'Wide World of Sports.'" But they didn't know his name."

Before Munich, McKay watched in dismay as the careers of announcers who had come to ABC later than he did zoomed by. McKay knew determination, but patience was difficult. "Give it time," Margaret knowingly advised. "Your day will come. It's going to happen to you."

"As much as I hate to say it," McKay admits, "Munich advanced my career."

IN THESE TIMES OF HIGH INTEREST rates and expensive real estate, a man's material success can be measured in the number of dwellings he has for personal use. Twelve years after Munich, McKay is outrageously successful; he and Margaret maintain four homes—an apartment in New York; an ever-expanding house of Margaret's design in affluent Westport, Conn.; a rambler in Coral Springs, Fla.; and their pride and joy, a 130-year-old classic Federal house with seven fireplaces, on 40 acres in Monkton, Md., outside of Baltimore. "We're a little 'overhoused' right now," Margaret admits, but they can't bring themselves to part with any of them.

"The farm," as they call the home in Maryland, is their well-earned refuge. In the winter, a perfect evening includes fires in the living room and library, which open to each other, and books. Like others in the neighborhood, McKay, a voracious reader, has taken to thoroughbred rearing. "He used to read *The New York Times* to me," Margaret says. "Now it's *The Racing Form*."

It's Margaret who is listed as the owner of the McKay fillies, Special Darlin—"No 'g' and no apostrophe," says the ever-precise McKay—and Seven Paces, and she selected the silks (pale blue and white), but McKay takes it seriously.

Bonita Farms, a working resort for fast, expensive horses north of Baltimore, awoke before dawn on the Monday after the Preakness. By the time the springtime sun cleared the treetops and began to turn the blanket of dew into a hillside steam bath, busy exercise riders had returned most of the dozen or so



It's the real McKay whenever he's around thoroughbreds.

horses under Bill Boniface's care to the barn, where grooms, riders, the trainer, and a network television announcer led the thoroughbreds through incongruously termed "hot walks," which actually serve to cool the horses down.

So far, despite the learned coaching of Bill Boniface—who arranged for the liaison that produced Deputed Testimony for the price of a Toyota, then coaxed him to the '83 Preakness crown—the McKays' plunge into horse racing has been far more outgo than income. Margaret shrugs; the expense is a minor inconvenience compared to the pleasure her husband reaps from it. "It's the first thing he's done that has made him really want to stay close by," she says, and she is thankful.

What McKay likes best about his mornings at Bonita Farms is his casual anonymity. In airports, he resorts to sunglasses to conceal his identity. On airplanes, he hides behind books. But for his mornings at the farm, he doesn't shave, and he gets to wear comfortable old clothes. It is in this setting, coaxing a panting horse to drink, leaning on a rough-hewn rail, and squinting into the morning sun as thoroughbreds thunder by, that the veneer of celebrity peels away and the picture that is the real McKay begins to crystallize.

Seeing his father through the eyes of a producer, McManus says, "If his on-camera appearance or approach had been phony, he would have been found out years ago."

At the farm, it's obvious what we sense from the television screen. McKay is the kind of fellow you'd invite to a backyard barbecue. More important, he's the kind of

fellow who'd accept. Jim McKay is the sports anchor next door.

WHEN MCKAY WAS AN INFANT, his father, Joseph F. McManus, was the principal of a small Catholic high school in Lancaster, Pa. On Sundays, he played quarterback for the Lancaster Red Roses, an ancient professional football team. But real estate fascinated Joe McManus, and he accepted a position in the Federal Housing Administration that took the family to Philadelphia. The modest McManus clan—Jim has a sister five years younger—lived there in middle-class splendor until Washington transferred its patriarch to Baltimore. McKay was 14 at the time.

Growing up, McKay was an avid gamesman. Alas, though he volunteered for every game in the neighborhood, and later optimistically tried out for every team in high school, the outcomes were not altogether memorable—primarily, but not solely, because his physical stature never matched his boundless enthusiasm.

In high school, he played junior varsity football, basketball, and baseball. It was baseball, his enduring fascination, that allowed him his singular athletic achievement. As the team's smallest player, he was lodged in right field and batted ninth. "Of course," he acknowledges buoyantly. But he was patient, and determined, and he had his moment. "Our school played a school named Poly," McKay recalls fondly, "and the guy pitched a one-hit game. I got the one hit. I could hardly wait to look at the boxscore in the [Baltimore] Sun the next day. And where

it should have said 'McManus,' it said, 'McNs.' They had shortened it." Even now, he sounds distinctly crestfallen.

If McKay couldn't be big man on campus with a bat in his hands or a ball under his arm, there were other ways. He immersed himself in some of his school's extra-curricular activities—drama, debate, the school newspaper—and cultivated a fascination for journalism he'd discovered when his family was still in Philadelphia. "Red Smith was my first idol," McKay says, a not-unfamiliar confession. "He wasn't even a columnist yet. He was writing about the Philadelphia A's, who were in last place, and I remember thinking, 'Man, 154 games, a last-place team, and this man finds something interesting every day. Someday I'd like to be able to write like that.'" That became valuable inspiration for a man who has spent most of his career convincing Saturday afternoon America that ice-skating barrel-jumpers and tree-climbing lumberjacks don't merit instant channel-changing.

At Loyola College in Baltimore, McKay replicated his nonathletic endeavors. He was proficient and comfortable at public speaking and he became president of the debate club and the dramatic society. Of course, he handled the microphone at Loyola's basketball games. He had also focused his career aspirations. "I knew I wanted to be a reporter; either radio or newspaper would have been great with me."

Fate took a hand in that. When he was discharged from the Navy, McKay landed a job as a police reporter and general assignment writer for *The Baltimore Evening Sun*. The experience was invaluable, McKay says. "As a police reporter, I went places nobody wanted to go. As a general assignment writer, I did housing stories." McKay wrote about the plight of Baltimore's inner city, where tenants would nail planks to the bottoms of their doors to keep rats out, only to have rodent-size holes gnawed through less than two days later.

Stories like that left McKay without any romantic notions about journalism. He was neither crusader nor bleeding heart, but, simply, a reporter. It satisfied him immensely. "I loved the newspaper business," he says. "I was absolutely crazy about it."

Margaret McManus—conveniently, it was her maiden name—a tall, fetching blonde, sat across from the young reporter for a year before he gathered the nerve to ask her out. Socially bashful, McKay had perceived an assortment of obstacles standing between him and Margaret. Her intimidating social calendar was no secret. She dated famously through the newsroom, and military officers lined up for her phone number. Then there was her status at the *Evening Sun*: "She was a more important re-

porter on the paper than I was," McKay explains. Clarifies Margaret: "I was a big star then; he was just a beginner." And then there was her height. Despite other concessions to the years—"Then I was a blonde naturally, now I'm a blonde with help," she bubbles candidly—at 5'7", Margaret was, and remains, a full inch taller than McKay.

Nonetheless, theirs was a love story waiting to happen. "I'd heard an awful lot of lines in my seven years at the *Sun*," Margaret remembers, "but what impressed me most—and it is still Jim's absolute best quality—is that he was totally sincere. He never had a line; he wouldn't know what a line would be." Their first date was an old All-American Football Conference game between the Colts and the San Francisco 49ers. That was followed by 47 consecutive nights out. Margaret recalls her man's timing as uniquely propitious. "I had always had the ability to look ahead and say, 'Here's the Belvedere Ball on Saturday night, but what about Monday morning, when somebody's got to take out the laundry?' I was ready to settle down with somebody really solid." In McKay, she discovered her Gibraltar.

In 1947, the Sun papers launched the experiment that ultimately, if circuitously, led to McKay becoming America's "Mr. Olympics," by starting WMAR-TV. Television auditions were a cinch in those days. Newspaper executives identified McKay as the one-time president of the debate club at Loyola, "and that was good enough for them," McKay recalls. "They dragooned four of us out of the city room to go over there, and the other three wanted to go back." His mellow voice became the first ever heard on Baltimore television. "From the beginning, I liked doing it," McKay says. He and Margaret had married by then, and already they were talking as a team. "We thought, 'My gosh, this has got to grow to be tremendous.'"

For three years, McKay dabbled in virtually every area of the nascent medium, functioning as writer, producer, director, newsman, sports commentator, and on-air personality, establishing a personal maxim that he maintains to this day: If McKay doesn't write it, he doesn't read it.

In 1950, New York's WCBS began local programming, and it scooped Baltimore's local hero up to host a variety show, "The Real McKay." On it, McKay became the first in a long line of Merv Griffins, singing between interviews, and interviewing between songs. Margaret was tickled to stay home and tend her budding family. A daughter, Mary, was born in 1952; Sean followed in 1954. To keep her typewriter occupied, once a week she wrote a syndicated television column. She kept at it for 20 years, until "I'd



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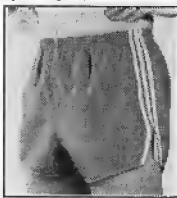
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done everyone who had his face on TV."

Dedication compelled McKay to develop a sports niche in WCBS' two evening newscasts. "At every turn, we kept hinting that we wanted news, news, news," McKay says. "In fact, if I had an ultimate ambition, it would have been to be anchorman on the CBS network news. But the opportunities always seemed to be in sports."

He abandoned "The Real McKay" when CBS decided to battle NBC's successful "Today" show; for "The Morning Show," the network recruited a youthful Walter Cronkite to moderate and McKay to deliver sports news. Cora and Bill Baird, the fore-runners of Jim Henson's Muppets, were regulars. For a while, McKay tried to juggle his local newscast appearances and "The Morning Show," but he sensed an early demise if he continued to get home at midnight and have to rise at 4 a.m. After getting assurances from CBS that it was prepared to go the distance against "Today," McKay gave up his local sports shows. As luck would have it, in one of the quirkiest reversals of his career, CBS set about reformatting "The Morning Show" within weeks of McKay committing himself completely to the network. Jack Paar was in. Cronkite, McKay, and the puppets were out.

Mckay detoured to a daytime show called "The Verdict Is Yours," in which he played a court reporter in the pressroom. "For those days, it paid a lot of money, but I didn't enjoy doing it." When the producers decided to take the show to California, McKay declined to join them. At the ambitious age of 38, when most men are beginning to consolidate their successes and chart maturing careers, McKay seemed on the verge of reverting to McManus. Always a prudent money manager, Margaret presided over a well-stocked savings account; for nearly a year, the family survived on that and the \$12,000 her syndicated column earned, while McKay became the resident model shipbuilder of Westport, Conn.

In 1960, McKay worked again for CBS on an event-by-event basis. Indeed, it was in 1960 that he anchored his first Olympics, the Rome Games. But he never got on an airplane, never changed time zones. Instead, tapes were flown from Rome to New York, where voiceovers were applied. McKay recalls hugging tapes that had frozen in the high altitude. "It was a real grab-ass operation," says McKay acidly.

Mckay was covering the '61 Masters golf tournament for CBS when the most fateful phone call of his life came. Chet Simmons and Roone Arledge, casual acquaintances of McKay's, were seeking an anchorman for a summer replacement show on ABC. Was he interested? "Were we!" Margaret laughs. "So it was only 13 weeks. It was better than

nothing, and nothing is what we had then."

Two days later, Simmons called again, and again McKay was summoned from his perch at Augusta National. They'd settled on McKay, they said. How much money would it take to get him to agree? "Can't we wait until I get back to New York?" McKay wondered. "I'm right in the middle of this golf tournament." It couldn't, Arledge said. "We've got a press conference scheduled to announce the anchorman of the show in 45 minutes. We want to tell them it's you."

"So we closed the deal right then, on the phone," McKay says. It didn't bother him that he was on the air with CBS when ABC revealed its proud coup for the first "Wide World of Sports." "CBS didn't pay very well then," he says. "Maybe they still don't."

In 1961, sports programming was largely virgin territory. Cameras came late to baseball, and professional football hadn't been discovered until '57. It wouldn't be genuinely exploited for years. So the idea of a sports show that went to track meets and auto races, golf tournaments and demolition derbies, skating competitions and lumberjack roundups seemed an ambitious experiment. "The truth is," says McKay, "five years before, I had outlined a show like that and took it around, but I couldn't get anybody to sponsor it."

"When Roone and Chet gave me a general idea of what 'Wide World' was going to be about, it was sort of as if, here it is. I had been walking around corners all my career looking for something that was in the back of my mind. And now I'd found it."

That 13-week experiment became the basis for what is today the backbone of ABC's sports programming, in terms of production qualities, coverage philosophies, and content. "We report events in human terms," Lewin says. "It's even apparent in 'Monday Night Football.'"

As a precedent-setter, how McKay delivered the goods, though, was no less important to "Wide World's" success than, initially, its novelty, and now, its impressive array of world-championship events. "You almost feel that Jim is sitting next to you in your living room," Lewin says admiringly. "Jim's a friend when he comes into your house. He's not somebody lecturing you; he's someone [who] is able to relate in human terms the events he's seeing."

Elsewhere in the industry, envious executive producers took note. When NBC was grooming Bryant Gumbel for star status, then-executive producer Don Ohlmeyer held McKay up as a model worth emulating. "There are hundreds of people doing television today," he advised. "There are not a lot of people on television that people both like and respect. You have this tremendous advantage going in that people like you when

they see you on the air. The next thing an on-air personality has to do is to get their respect."

McKay came to prominence at ABC with an innate sense of what viewers wanted from their television announcers. But he was careful to pick up important bits of advice as he readied himself for the break he never doubted would come. "When I first got to New York," McKay remembers, "I met Arthur Godfrey, who was the big guy then. We were talking, and the only bit of advice he gave me was, 'They'll tell you you're talking to 20 million people, and you are. But it's not like a great crowd in a stadium reacting as a crowd. They react *one on one*. You listen to me—I never talk to more than one person.' And I never have since then, either. Looking into that lens, it's a one-on-one relationship."

In the years that have ensued, McKay, ever the gamesman, has been a passenger in flat-out power boats in California and he's banged walls in bobsleds at Lake Placid. He's tried log-rolling in Minnesota and antique car rallies in England. He's chipped golf balls over the Great Wall of China, he's pushed golf carts at Baltusrol, and he's been ordered out of hotels where he had a confirmed reservation in Newport, R.I.

Most important, though, whether he's interviewing Jack Nicklaus on the 18th green at St. Andrews, Tom Sneva in victory lane at the Indianapolis 500, or Angel Cordero beneath a garland of black-eyed Susans at the Preakness, McKay has never lost sight of the fact that he's first and foremost a reporter who cut his teeth on back-alley police work and nearly destitute folks who couldn't keep the rats out of their houses. And that's why McKay's trademark conclusion, from Indianapolis to Innsbruck, from Miami to Munich, is a straightforward, "That's the story from here."

JIM MCKAY IS DRESSED IN A TAN, travel-worn sports jacket, dark-brown slacks, a plaid sports shirt and a café au lait tie as he stands outside Eastern Air Lines' New York-Washington shuttle gate at National Airport. The lines in his face are noticeably deeper today, less than 24 hours after the Monaco Grand Prix, then they were the morning at Bonita Farm. His narrow shoulders droop, and he seems tiny, vulnerable. Behind a mask of sunglasses, his kind blue eyes ache.

He'd thought about shaving, but the men's room didn't have paper towels, only one of those warm-air blowers. Any man who'd just finished five hours on trans-Atlantic couldn't be expected to stick his face into that. So, with stubble on his chin and sleep in his eyes, he glances at his watch, then drops the sunglasses down on his nose so he can study the stream of cars flowing by the terminal.

None of them is his ABC limousine. His sigh is audible.

In moments like these, when McKay appears disheveled and in need of about 10 weeks vacation, it's easy to understand why ABC has begun to prepare potential successors to the Jim McKay dynasty. "Let's be realistic," Lewin advises. "Jim's not as young as he used to be."

There is an almost tangible feeling that the horses, the big house in Maryland, and Margaret will inevitably begin to claim more of McKay's time. Already, he's begun to slow down—if you can call two Olympics and nearly 40 "Wide World" shows this year "slowing down." Virtually the only concession he's made is in terms of mileage; McKay will log less than 250,000 air miles in '84.

His current contract comes due at the end of 1985, when he'll be 63. McKay deflects the thought of retirement. "I don't think I could ever do that," he says. However, he may request that his duties be limited to those events that delight him the most—golf and horse racing. There is a poignant pause as McKay rubs his jaw. "And one more Olympics. I think I'd like that."

And what of published reports that CBS's Brent Musburger covets McKay's Olympics role? "I've read that in the paper, and I'm thinking, 'The body is still warm.'" If he's bristling inside, it doesn't show on the surface. Naturally. It's the unflappable Jim McKay, and he's had years of practice. "It does seem to be rushing it a bit."

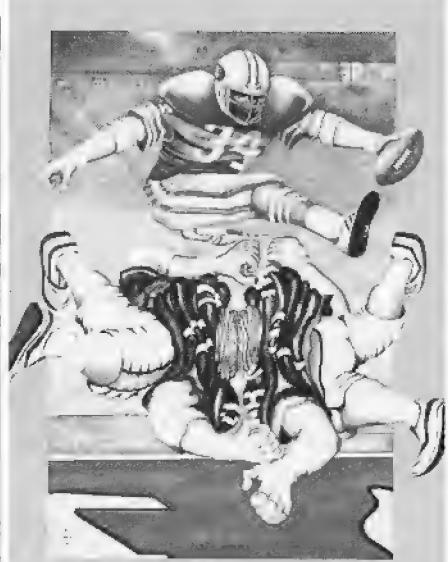
"We've gotten along to this point without a Brent Musburger," Lewin says, "and we could in the future, too. I think we're very solid; I defy any of the networks to come up with anywhere the depth of talent we've got." For the Los Angeles Games, ABC flaunts precisely the thing of which Lewin spoke: McKay, anchor-apparent Al Michaels, Frank Gifford, the dependable play-by-play man, up-and-coming Kathleen Sullivan, and the late-night duo of Jim Lampley and Donna deVarona.

"When other people talk about doing the Olympics," Lewin continues, "I'm not sure, quite frankly, how well they'd be able to do them without our kind of talent, without our depth of talent." Tops on that list, of course, is McKay, ABC's one true marathon man. Few have the insides to go the distance. For anyone who has, the aforementioned attributes hold true.

Determination and patience. Good old Jim McKay. He knew it all along.

That's the story from here. ■

Contributing writer TOM JACKSON is that reliable, trustworthy, sincere sports writer next door—and he'd love to be invited to your barbecue. Tom's last INSIDE SPORTS piece was an interview with Sen. Bill Bradley.



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Bats: Right Throws: Right
Height: 6-1 Weight: 240

Born: 1-1-55 Columbia, S. Carolina

Dewey LaMarr

"Lammer"

HOYT

Grade A Pitcher (2)(Y)(Z)

Bats: Right Throws: Right

Height: 6-5 Weight: 215

Born: 3-12-56 Portland, Oregon

Dale Bryan

"Murph"

MURPHY

(F) Outfielder (3)

11- 5	31- 9	51- 8
12- 25	32- 26	52- 27
13- 14	33- 5	53- 16
14- 30	34- 31	54- 32
15- 11	35- 9	55- 8
16- 28	36- 14	56- 34
21- 13	41- 24	61- 40
22- 7	42- 14	62- 13
23- 29	43- 12	63- 30
24- 13	44- 8	64- 14
25- 10	45- 14	65- 35
26- 13	46- 13	66- 1
J-O		

Above is an exact-size replica of the Murphy player card, along with a portion of the Hoyt card. These are just two of 520 such cards in the current edition of APBA Baseball (and many, many more are optionally available). Used in conjunction with the exclusive APBA play results boards, these cards will produce records so similar to Murphy's and Hoyt's respective statistics that you will be absolutely amazed. The same is true for every other player in the game, too!

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By LOU FIOTO

Step Right Up and Get Your USFL Franchise

THESE ARE STRANGE TIMES FOR professional sports. Free agency, player movement, rising salaries, revised rules, agents, strikes, changing strategies, shifting teams, new and expanding leagues, and uncontrolled owners have all contributed to a constant state of flux and confusion in the sports world.

But what would happen if things got out of hand and were taken to the limit . . . taken one step further?

You just might open your favorite newspaper or *INSIDE SPORTS* and find reports and stories like these:

THE USFL HAS ANNOUNCED THAT, starting in 1985, it will:

- expand to 217 franchises.
- realign geographically.
- decrease the regular-season schedule.
- expand the playoffs.

The league has granted franchises to Allentown, Amarillo, Brooklyn, Pittsfield (in every state), Toledo, Trenton, Tucumcari, Wilkes-Barre, and most North American cities with a population of more than half a million.

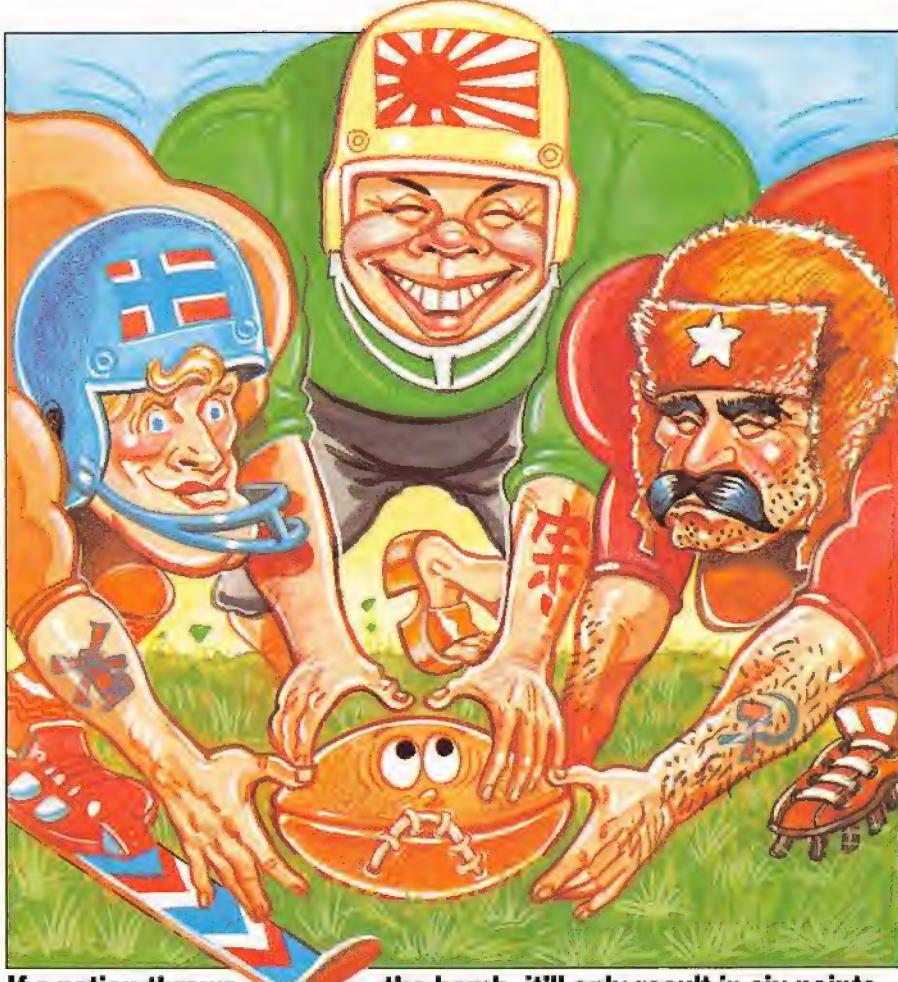
Franchises have also been awarded to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, countries in the European Common Market, the Organization of American States, and the Soviet Union.

"Statistics show," a USFL official said, "that people can't get enough football, so why not accommodate them? They're happy, we're happy, everybody benefits."

The expanded league will consist of 21 conferences of two divisions each, with five teams in each division. The Soviet Conference will have three divisions, two of which will have six teams.

"The Soviets refused to conform," the official shrugged.

The league will eliminate two regular-



If a nation throws the bomb, it'll only result in six points.

season games in order to prepare for the expanded playoffs. These will start the day after the regular season ends, with the winners of each division competing for the conference title. In the Soviet Conference, who plays whom and the winners will be decided by the Soviet high command.

Each conference winner will then play every other conference winner, and the team with the best record will be crowned

the league champion. In the event of a tie, a Texas death match will decide the winner. If more than two teams are tied, the champion will be decided by cutting a deck of cards.

The league also announced that, based on the results and popularity of the 1985 playoffs, it may decide to eliminate all training camps and preseason scrimmages in 1986, reduce the regular season to five games, and run the playoffs year-round. The league

would play from January 15 to December 15, with the remaining month set aside for vacation, compilation of statistics, and the printing of new schedules.

IN HOCKEY, FANS OF THE MONTREAL CANADIENS of the NHL have let their team know that they will not tolerate another bad showing in the Stanley Cup playoffs. They are threatening to expel the team from the Province of Quebec and shift allegiance to the explosive Quebec Nordiques, archrivals of the Canadiens.

"We've had our fill," one fan said. "If they don't win this year, let them move to Saskatoon!"

The St. Louis Blues have announced that they've agreed to produce a TV series for NBC's fall schedule.

The series, based on the team's problems, will offer its premiere in early October, coinciding with the Blues season opener. Scripts are being solicited from sports writers around the country.

A team spokesperson cited the proliferation of shows like "Hill Street Blues" and "Bay City Blues" as the major reason for the venture.

"It's time to show the world what goes on around a pro hockey team," he said. "It's not all fun and games. We've been owned by a cat food company, almost moved to the hinterlands, gone from mediocre to outstanding to mediocre again, lost a top executive, had key injuries . . . you name it! If that isn't real drama, I don't know what is. We'll make 'Hill Street' look like 'Sesame Street.'"

Everyone on the team will play himself in the show.

"More realistic," the spokesperson said. "Only the St. Louis Blues could portray the St. Louis Blues."

THE NBA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT anyone caught involved with drugs in any way will be immediately executed.

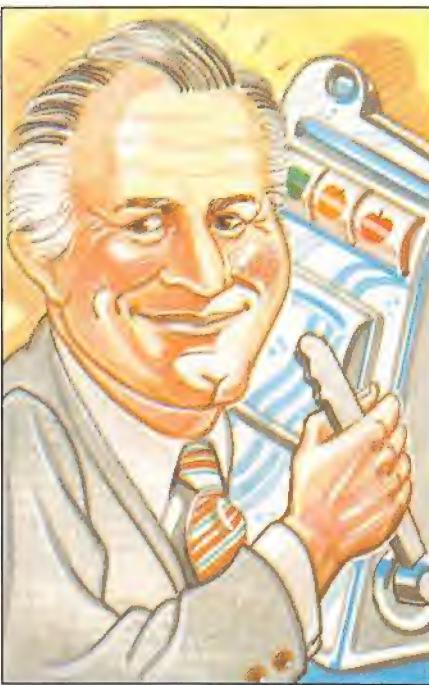
The NBA Players Association has filed a grievance, pointing out that being put to death is not in the Basic Agreement.

PETE ROSE SAYS HE WON'T STOP once he passes the late Ty Cobb and becomes baseball's all-time leader in hits.

"I want to be the first man to get 5,000 hits," he said. "I'm psyched up for the season because, if I have a typical Pete Rose year, I'll pass Cobb in late September and win the Comeback Player of the Year award. It's one of the few awards I haven't won."

Rose says he's healthy and can play until retirement age—65. He then might become an umpire.

"Before I'm through," he said, "I want to be the only man to play every position in each league in the All-Star Game [he's already



Bowie Kuhn will find his slot.

made it at first, second, third, right, and left field in the National League], play all 10 positions [including DH] in the same game, play in both leagues after the age of 50, and be the first playing manager/coach/owner. And I want to be the first baseball player to play in the same game with his son [legendary Gordie Howe did it in hockey]."

Later Rose speculated about the possibility of playing at least one season with each of the remaining 23 major league teams, and becoming the first playing commissioner of baseball.

THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES PLAN TO experiment with the total platoon system.

Manager Joe Altobelli will platoon at all 10 positions, depending on whether a righthander or lefthander is pitching, and is experimenting with offensive and defensive platoons in the same game.

"Hey, our system helped us win the World Series last year," Altobelli said, "and it may be the wave of the future. We aim to put the best team on the field at all times."

Critics concede that Altobelli's logic is sound, but think the Orioles are carrying the program just a little too far.

The team now platoons its batboys and clubhouse attendants, rotates its coaches, uses offensive and defensive ushers, employs two complete sets of vendors (one for good weather, one for bad), fields righty and lefty ticket sellers, and has a switch-playing organist who alternates his playing hand, depending on who's at bat.

The American League has denied the Orioles' request to be allowed to rotate the playing field and platoon the umpires.

Meanwhile, it is rumored that Earl Weaver

has received another offer to manage. This one includes a contract for eternity, with a "no firing" clause. The contract allows him to resign at any time, and return again whenever he wants.

The contract would also give Weaver:

- a free home anywhere in the world,
- a tomato patch for him to tend in every major league city,
- a new permanent by a top hair stylist,
- a lifetime supply of Jockey shorts, personally delivered by Jim Palmer each week, and
- an ashtray at both ends of the dugout.

FORMER BASEBALL COMMISSIONER Bowie Kuhn has purchased three casinos in Atlantic City and has hired three major league stars—Carl Yastrzemski, Johnny Bench, and Gaylord Perry—to act as goodwill ambassadors for them.

Kuhn, who once barred Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays from working in baseball because they were affiliated with casinos, will not allow present players to work for his establishments, saying it would not be in the best interest of Atlantic City.

Kuhn, an attorney, says he will continue to practice law, seeing no conflict of interest between that and his new venture.

THE N.Y./N.J. JETS OF THE NATIONAL Football League have confirmed rumors that the team will move to Connecticut following the 1984 season.

At the beginning of last season, a less than stellar one for the Jets, owner Leon Hess decided to move his team from Shea Stadium to the Meadowlands in 1984. Efforts to sway his decision failed.

Now Hess has decided not to stay in the Meadowlands in 1985. An anonymous insider claims it's because Hess is at odds with Wellington Mara, owner of the Giants (with whom the Jets will share the Meadowlands.)

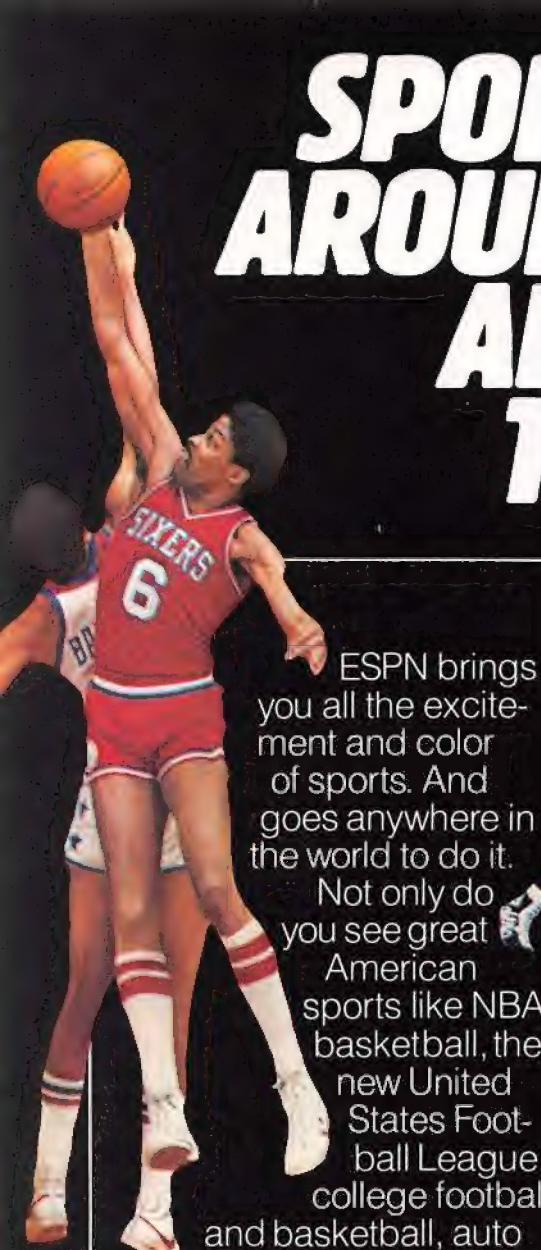
"Leon is angry," the insider says, "because he thinks Wellington cheated him in their annual game of Monopoly, and if there's anything Leon hates, it's being hustled!"

Given Hess' penchant for playing in meadows (Flushing Meadows, Meadowlands), it's believed that he has found a new meadow in Connecticut, will build a domed stadium there, and call his team the Tri-State Jets, since they will have played in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

One wit wondered if Hess would someday move his team back to New York and play in Sheep Meadow field in Central Park. The Jets refuse to comment. ■

LOU FIOTO, a New York writer, has offered to let the Jets train in his back yard. He'll serve lemonade, and he promises to clean up after his dog.

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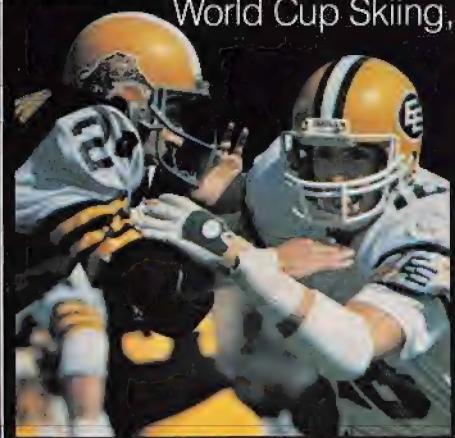


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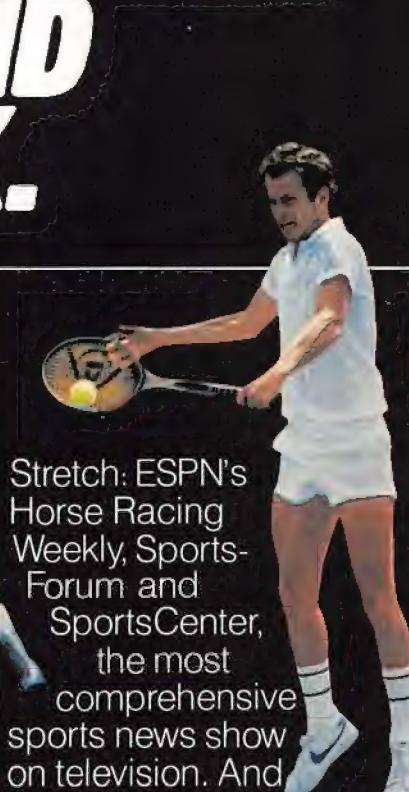


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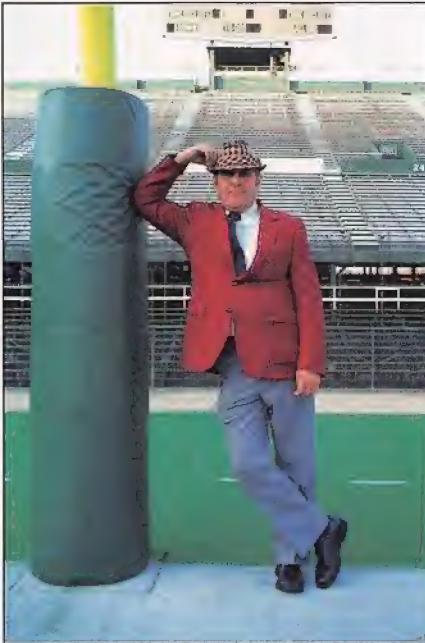
By MICHAEL GLOBETTI

A Bear Of a Gate-Crasher

SOME SAY PLENARY INDULGENCES, others think it's a glad hand for the tithe box. But while nobody's quite sure how a person goes about getting into heaven, Eddie Mullen will be the first who gate-crashes his way in. After all, the pearly gates hardly could prove more impregnable than, say, the Superdome. And that was no mountain for a stepper like Eddie. "Everybody warned me the Superdome was patrolled like Fort Knox," he recalls, thinking of the 1980 Sugar Bowl game between Penn State and Alabama for the national championship. "They musta been kiddin'. Took me five minutes, tops, to get in."

If football, as proclaimed, is a religious experience for most Alabamians, then Eddie Mullen is a high priest among them. He may not levitate, but when he wants to watch a football game, digging a moat around the stadium won't stop him. For the last 40 years, he's taken pilgrimages a sports archivist would fantasize about. He endured up close an 0-10 season by his beloved Crimson Tide, and he reveled in the late Bear Bryant's monumental 315th victory. He was on hand when Joe Namath threw his first college pass (it was a touchdown) and he saw a freshman quarterback from Louisiana Tech named Terry Bradshaw take his first snap. The day Ray Perkins made his ballyhooed 'Bama coaching debut, Eddie beat him to the ballpark. He did all this with his idea of gratis, too. When Damon Runyon said "a freeloader is always a confirmed guest," he could have had Eddie in mind.

Some of Eddie's gate-crashing tricks—like trying to pass himself off as a block of ice—were subtle, some weren't. They all worked. Eddie stadium-hopped all over the country. A con man's eyes might open wide at how he did it, but to the kids in my neighborhood who probably never would have seen a college football game without his help, he was no chiseler; he had a heart as big



Eddie just may crash the pearly gates to join Bryant, his hero.

and warm as a wood stove. We lionized him. Knowing Eddie was like having a friend whose back yard bordered a drive-in theater: You got viewing privileges without spending a dime. He commanded a place of honor in Birmingham football lore alongside Popeyed Pat the Lady Book, the electrifying quarterback Donnie Nock of the semipro Leeds Kilowatts ("Hard Nock Shocks Saints," the headlines blared), and the late Ralph (Shorty) Price, a 5'1" Legion Field fixture whose father's will refused his inheritance unless he ran for governor every year an election was held. Eddie, who in more prosaic incarnations has been a short-order chef, hotel bellhop, and gold miner in the Sierra Madre, even achieved minor sainthood for his gate-crashing noblesse oblige at the 1976 Alabama-Auburn game. One of his charges that day was a little boy with no

kidneys. His parents, burdened by bills from his dialysis and unable to afford scalpers' ticket prices, had asked Eddie to take their son along because they were afraid he might die before seeing his two favorite teams play.

To anyone who cared to watch an Alabama football game, Eddie opened his benevolent brand of misbehavior. Anyone. He chauffeured in park-bench bums, state senators, and once a major-leaguer named J. C. Powers, who at the time was a pinch-hitter of the Smokey Burgess ilk. "The day of a game, his phone rang off the wall," says his buddy, Geets Brawley. Once Eddie was inside the stadium, he was a study in escapism. Brawley recalls the afternoon Eddie sprang a fence to greet Steve Sloan, then coach at Vanderbilt (now at Duke) but a former Alabama great, and Sloan "was so taken aback, it might as well have been his uncle, the way he threw his arms around Eddie." Jimmy Fuller, another ex-Alabama player, remembers how Eddie would show up on the Alabama sideline and "look so natural standing there nobody said a word to him."

Sidekicks from boyhood muse at how Eddie's gate-crashing career followed in the bootsteps of his father, a fireman who got into games free when he wore his uniform. Eddie didn't think he should have to pay to get in, either. When he was eight years old, he began hitchhiking from his house in the steel mill suburb of Wylam to Birmingham's Legion Field. At first, he sold Cokes at the games, like all his buddies. "But you stayed so busy in the stands," he says, "you didn't get to see much of the game. They'd always fire me because I'd set down my tray and sit on it and watch the game. I didn't care about making money then. I was just crazy about football—a football fool."

He was too young to be brazen, just a kid who loved the game so much he missed his ride home one night while standing in line at the Toy Bowl pee-wee league's annual ban-

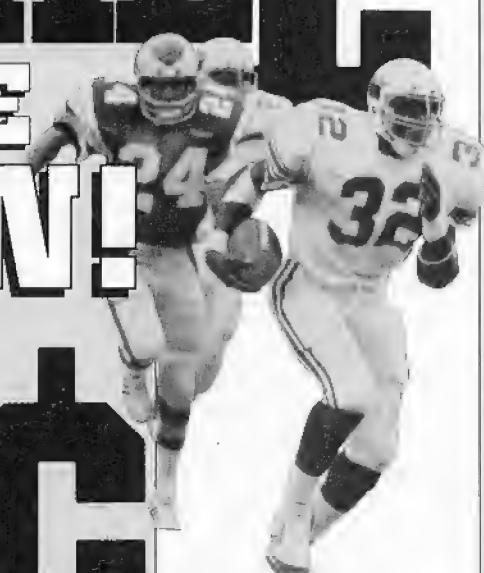
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quet to shake Pat O'Brien's hand. Eddie was a Notre Dame man then. And good Catholic though he had been raised, he convinced himself there was nothing felonious about sneaking in to see a football game if he couldn't get in any other way. The first time he stepped surreptitiously through a stadium gate was "so easy," he remembers, "I decided to do it at the next game . . . then the next one." Sometimes, he would slide in solo. On other Saturdays, he ganged up with as many as 50 boys. On a count of three, they would rattle the high fence surrounding the stadium as if to advertise their intention of going over the top. When a guard came running over, a few in the group would trot casually off and duck through the gate he had just vacated. "Our old end-around," Eddie calls it. Not all excursions went so smoothly. Once, his pal Red Roberts cupped his hands to give Eddie a boost over the fence. There seemed some hesitation below. "What you waitin' for, Red? C'mon, push. Push!" Eddie dropped his gaze into the eyes of a policeman who had hold of his foot and was bent with laughter. The cop pinched his ankle as a reprimand then chucked him over the fence.

As Eddie grew older, his ploys became bolder, more sophisticated. One trick called for slapping a sliver of cardboard into the guard's palm with such force that the "ticket" fell to the ground. By the time the guard had stooped and retrieved it, Eddie already was on his way to look for a seat. Another scheme was flashing his son's school safety-patrol badge, as in "Police—coming through!" He never went in for disguises, such as wearing a Roman collar or putting on a physician's scrub suit. "They're a good idea, if you got time to fool with 'em. Me, I don't need 'em," he says. He did, however, give a chilling performance that would have impressed Stanislavsky. That was the time he jumped on the back of a truck outside the stadium and crawled under a canvas tarp where he hid next to a load of hundred-pound blocks of ice.

"It was freezin' down there," he recalls, "but the driver was headed straight for the main gate, so I figure, hey, this is a cinch. Then he makes a sharp turn away from the stadium. My brother-in-law Rock Mason's runnin' down the street, screamin', 'He ain't goin' in the game! He ain't goin' in the game!' I jumped off the truck and like to have killed myself, and from then on I say I'm stickin' with my own ways for gettin' in."

Those ways have made for quite a mystique. Jimmy Fuller, who today is head coach at Jacksonville (Ala.) State (where the son of his best friend, Ray Perkins, plays for him), long has followed Eddie's antics. "It always amazed me how he got into every big game and never had a ticket," Fuller recollects. "He took a liking to me because I'd grown up not

far from him. When I was at Alabama, he'd be right next to me on the sideline. I'd say, 'Mullen, where you sittin'?' He'd say, 'Just sorta movin' around.' He fit in so well standing there, I could have sworn he came disguised as an [Alabama] assistant coach."

Eddie smuggled himself into game after game, and for almost 20 years, his stealth never failed him. Then came the watershed episode of Eddie Mullen's gate-crashing career, another Alabama-Auburn game, circa 1959. As always, he had fortified his daring with a few hallowed-be-the-name-of-the-Bear toasts at the Goalline Lounge in front of the stadium. An hour before game time, he coolly slinked through the main gate, meeting no more resistance from the security men there than from the two behemoth stone lions adorning the entrance. By now, after so many easy successes, Eddie had gotten cocky, his gall seemingly ending just short of commandeering a taxi to drop him off on the 50-yard line. He was loitering in the catacombs beneath the stands when a policeman strode over and routinely asked to see his ticket. Ordinarily, Eddie would have claimed the stub was in a coat pocket back at his seat, or inside his wife's purse in the upper deck. But he panicked and bolted, and the cop quickly overtook him. A blow from his billy club broke Eddie's leg. But as he was loaded into an ambulance, it was his wounded pride that hurt worse: For the first time, he was forced to face up to failure. Then that night, as he lay in a hospital bed a few blocks from Legion Field, his leg in traction, his spirits in shambles, it came to him. He had been banished only *after* already in the game. The dolorousness disappeared; the gate-crashing record remained perfecto.

Eddie's streak, unbroken to this day, may seem a dubious distinction, but not to his band of youthful followers. My uncle Moe, a sociologist who was best man in Eddie's wedding, once labeled him a boisterous boy in manhood (or something like that), but only Eddie's enthusiasm concerned us. He was the only neighborhood dad as insatiable for sports as the kids. Not only was he always willing to convoy us through a stadium gate, but he was the star batting practice pitcher at the field a block from where he lived. And when his son Pat, a classmate of mine, hit his first Little League home run, Eddie got more than a vicarious thrill out of it. He was sitting in straightaway center field, tipping a beer, and by the time the ball cleared the fence traveling in one direction, he had cleared it traveling in the other. He ran straight to second base, where he slapped Pat on the rump and joined in the home run trot. The latest story about him to make the rounds shows him to be the same animated Eddie: The night before Bear Bryant retired, he was staying at the hotel where Eddie

worked; Eddie slipped another bellhop five bucks to let him carry The Bear's bags up to his room.

Eddie first invited me to sneak in with him when he spotted me at the stadium selling programs to earn my way into a game. I had stood in the rain since early that morning with my friend Duffer Phillips, neither of us having much luck peddling wet programs. If I ever got rid of my entire stack, it would be halftime or later. Still, I resisted Eddie's overtures. "What makes you want to work so hard just to see a ball game?" he teased. He knew darn well. It was my father. The man whose picture Eddie keeps to this day in his football scrapbook: Daddy, in his Ensley High uniform, a 165-pound all-city guard in a state championship season, down in a menacing three-point stance with his nickname "Snake" stenciled across his leather helmet. Snake would hear about my sneaking in, and then he would let me hear about it in his own special way, as he had when my brother and I pilfered a couple of warmup jackets from an Alabama opponent. I didn't dare. A year later, however, when colleges began passing out complimentary tickets to my high school teammates they hoped to recruit, I chose gate-crashing as revenge for having been overlooked. Naturally, I went looking for Eddie.

"The cardinal rule is 'don't look back,'" he told me a week before that season's opening game, sitting in a chaise longue outside his house, hosing water over knobby legs that angled out of faded Bermuda shorts. "When you get to the gate, I'll be behind you and give you a push for courage, and you're home free. I give everybody a push their first time. Little Charlie Loreener, he swore he could make it by himself, then he got to the gate and froze and I had to come flying up and throw him through like he was shot out of a cannon." As we strolled around the stadium a few hours before kickoff, Eddie was in his element. He greeted fans and vendors like lifelong friends, and poked fun at a couple of cops about having them demoted to directing traffic the next time he talked to the chief. (Of the police, he says now: "They're not violent with me like they used to be; now they catch you inside and they say either go out, or go to jail.") But when Eddie kidded me about their paddy wagons parked nearby, my shuddering stomach didn't think it funny at all. Then he gave that nudge of assurance at the gate, and I breezed through just like he had promised.

It would be an adventure repeated throughout that season, always led by the snaggle-toothed "cross-back Irishman" with the Bud Grant crewcut. At one game, Eddie had scoped out a gate in the student section as the most propitious place for getting inside. He huddled us, then dispatched the

first three boys through. They went in undetected. Another wave of three (two of them girls) followed, then another, until more than a dozen had made it. Everybody except Eddie. He sidled to the gate. But as he started to sprint past, he stumbled, and the guard taking tickets jolted him by the arm. "Loose o' me!" Eddie raged, but the grip on his windbreaker grew tighter. "Let loose o' me, I say!" He gave a herculean heave and everything came undone at once. The guard went sprawling over a railing, clutching vainly Eddie's dismembered jacket sleeve. Eddie recoiled into a back somersault and landed against the leg of a woman, whose bouffant hairdo almost jumped off her head before he could stand and mutter an apology. Then he hustled off into the crowd, in again.

Age has seen to it that both Eddie and I refine our gate-crashing connivances. At 17, I became a sports writer and now get in by doing nothing more unusual than presenting a press pass. On the other hand, Eddie, at 51, has turned, in a word, genteel. "I started changin' about five years ago," he says. "I never really looked to bowl anybody over in the first place. Sometimes it just happened that way. But I got too old for that stuff. I felt it worse the next day than they did. So I got a new style."

Eddie doesn't go to games in blue jeans and T-shirt anymore. "I dress up sharp as hell," he explains, and that includes donning a hound's-tooth hat his kids gave him for Christmas out of a deference to his love for the Bear. "Then, outside the gate, I find a couple who look right out of a Saks Fifth Avenue catalog. I slide up next to 'em, and the guard, he thinks we're together. So he's not paying me any extra attention. By the time he realizes what I'm up to, I've done sped past him."

This year, now that his younger son, Johnny, has graduated from Alabama and become eligible to buy tickets as an alumnus, a more conventional tack for seeing games will avail itself to Eddie. But the man who once said "having to pay for it takes the sport out of it" isn't likely to have truck with the notion. "I got three grandsons comin' along who are gonna have to be trained," explains the gate-crashin' guru. "I ain't about to go soft now." And that's why, these days, I have a habit that's become almost reflexive when I arrive in the press box before a big college football game. I find myself picking up a pair of binoculars and scanning the stands for Eddie in Legion Field—nostalgically wondering what gate-crashing gambit paved his way in this time. ■

MICHAEL GLOBETTI, a feature writer now living in Boston, crashed his way into New England by easing up on his native Alabama drawl.



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THE GOOD DOCTOR

Did ABC-TV really consider replacing some of its Summer Games coverage with *Battle of the Network Olympians?*

A.C.C., COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
Yes. Network executives say the 400-Meter Scratch Your Eyes Out competition between Joan Collins and Linda Evans was twice as thrilling as anything Olga Korbut and Nadia Comaneci ever did. Pole-vaulting, featuring Heather Locklear leaping over Lech Walesa, was rumored to have been very exciting. Ted Lange of "Love Boat" reportedly scored a comfortable victory over Jane Wyman in the Greco-Roman wrestling finals. And, in what network publicity releases describe as "a surprising upset," Veronica Hamel of NBC's "Hill Street Blues" carried Mr. T on her shoulders to win the chicken-fight competition handily over Stefanie Powers and partner David Brinkley.

What does tennis star Andrea Jaeger do to keep in shape?

M.T.A., BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Usually she yogs and yumps rope.

Can you explain why professional bowling is still such a big hit with television viewers on Saturday afternoons? I hear the ratings are better than ever.

U.O., MUNCIE, INDIANA
It dates back to one of the very first broadcasts, when Chris Schenkel conducted an absolutely brilliant 20-minute postmatch interview with a seven-pin that kept Nelson Burton Jr. from a perfect game. Although the pin did not respond to any of Schenkel's questions, he kept the interview moving along briskly, with only one commercial interruption. Burton later said: "At first I thought the guy was nuts. I mean, he didn't have all his oil on his lanes, if you know what I mean. But since then, I have found Chris to be a warm, caring human being, in the kind of business where a lot of guys end up in the gutter."

LeRoy Neiman is the greatest artist in the world, as far as I'm concerned, and I'm trying to find out where I can buy a copy of his latest work. It's supposed to be extremely difficult to find.

PTA., HARPER VALLEY, TENNESSEE
It is. The United States Football League

commissioned Neiman for his impression of the league, but filed a lawsuit when he was finished. Instead of his usual bright colors, Neiman painted an all-black canvas and captioned it: "The USFL's Future."

Did the Cubs ever retire Hall-of-Famer Ernie Banks' number?

W.G.N., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Yes. It was 555-1313, area code 312.

Tell me what you remember most about the gold medal boxing victory of Cassius Clay—later Muhammad Ali—in the 1960 Olympics.

T.K.O., ROME, ITALY
It was right after his championship performance that the young Cassius Clay came up with his first poem: "I came to the Games. Got hold of the gold. Be back here someday. Cause I don't plan to get old." True to his word, Ali announced last month that he will come out of retirement in time for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Korea. His poem for the occasion is: "Float like a hippo. Sting like a moth. I will win the title again. Uh, I forgot the last line."

My friends tell me there's a very interesting story as to how Dave [King] Kongman got his name.

D.H., OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
More or less. Dave Kongman was a Mid-western sports writer who refused to talk to the athletes. Once, on a dare, he poured a bucket of ice water over a major league slugger's head. That made him "king" for a day. The joke backfired, however, because the writer was fired and eventually had to enter another profession. The slugger, meanwhile, became one of baseball's leading home run hitters, and kept the bucket on his head in the on-deck circle to "improve my concentration."

Syvester Stallone is reportedly at it again, so I just have to know: What is the story line for "Rocky IV?"

D.O.A., FOREST LAWN, CALIFORNIA
Rocco Balboa Jr., now 19 and a promising heavyweight, is rushed prematurely into a championship fight against his father. The older Balboa, 55, knocks the kid goofy in the first round. Rocky Jr. runs off with his Uncle

Paulie to run a gay bar in Des Moines, Iowa, while his mother, still brooding over her husband's refusal to quit boxing, goes out and buys a new hat. Meanwhile, Senator Balboa (R.-Pa.) discovers that his political career is interfering with his training, and he is forced to make a big choice. The whole thing is brought in for under \$40 million.

What are the seven most boring words on any radio or TV sports broadcast, in your opinion?

W.J.R., DETROIT, MICHIGAN
"Chris Evert advanced to the quarterfinals today . . . "

After all that has been said and done, what was the worst thing about the Olympic Games being hosted in Los Angeles?

I.O.C., COLORADO SPRINGS
Oh, probably that Afghanistan boycotted the Games after the United States' invasion of the Soviet Union.

Give me one good reason why we never see you interviewed on TV talk shows or see your picture in the magazine. There are a lot of readers, you know, who seriously believe that the Good Doctor invents his questions, and that he doesn't even really exist. Would you mail out 8 x 10 glossy photographs of yourself if anybody asked?

I.M.U., LAKELAND, FLORIDA
Actually, the Good Doctor was never better than when he appeared last month on Merv Griffin's show, exchanging chit-chat with Zsa Zsa Gabor and singing a medley of her greatest hits. He also did a guest shot with David Susskind for a panel discussion on: "Lesbianism in the Indy 500: Let's Do Something About It." As for publicity photos of the Doc, all I can say is: Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a personal check or money order for \$2,500 to The Good Doctor, INSIDE SPORTS, % the address listed below, and I will rush to you an autographed picture, not necessarily of myself.

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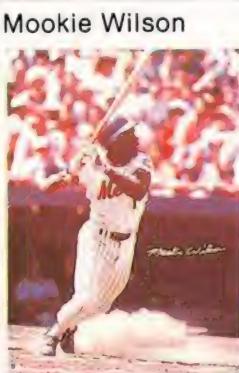
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By DAVE BROWN

POSTSEASON PRESSURE

When baseball's regular season ends and the playoffs begin, it's a whole new ball game. Some players become hot hitters, while others go cold. Here are the active players whose postseason batting averages are significantly higher or lower than their career regular-season averages. (Minimum of 1,500 regular-season at-bats and 50 postseason at-bats; includes 1981 Divisional Series, League Championship Series, and World Series play).

THE TOP 15

Rank	Player, Team	Regular Season	Post-Season	+/-
1.	Fred Lynn, Angels	.298	.407	+.109
2.	Gary Matthews, Cubs	.285	.360	+.075
	Bob Watson, Braves	.296	.371	+.075
4.	Larry Milbourne, Mariners	.253	.327	+.074
5.	Rick Dempsey, Orioles	.240	.304	+.064
6.	Phil Garner, Astros	.260	.322	+.062
7.	Robin Yount, Brewers	.284	.344	+.060
8.	Ken Singleton, Orioles	.286	.333	+.047
9.	Steve Garvey, Padres	.300	.346	+.046
10.	Darrell Porter, Cardinals	.250	.289	+.039
11.	Bill Russell, Dodgers	.264	.294	+.030
12.	Steve Yeager, Dodgers	.229	.257	+.028
13.	Dave Concepcion, Reds	.270	.297	+.027
14.	Tim Foli, Yankees	.251	.276	+.025
15.	George Brett, Royals	.316	.340	+.024

THE WORST 15

Rank	Player, Team	Regular Season	Post-Season	+/-
1.	Al Bumbry, Orioles	.284	.141	-.143
2.	Gorman Thomas, Mariners	.231	.103	-.128
3.	Ken Landreaux, Dodgers	.276	.160	-.116
4.	Rod Carew, Angels	.331	.220	-.111
5.	Ted Simmons, Brewers	.292	.183	-.109
6.	Dave Winfield, Yankees	.284	.182	-.102
7.	Cecil Cooper, Brewers	.308	.211	-.097
	Bobby Grich, Angels	.269	.172	-.097
9.	Al Oliver, Giants	.305	.214	-.091
10.	Joe Morgan, A's	.272	.182	-.090
11.	Ben Oglivie, Brewers	.272	.183	-.089
12.	Pedro Guerrero, Dodgers	.302	.217	-.085
13.	Rich Dauer, Orioles	.261	.180	-.081
14.	Willie Wilson, Royals	.305	.232	-.073
15.	Al Cowens, Mariners	.271	.200	-.071

SIZING UP THE SECONDARIES

The NFL ranks team pass defenses solely on the number of passing yards each team allows per game. Perhaps a more efficient way of gauging pass defenses would be to consider the four categories used to rank NFL quarterbacks: Completion Pct., TD Pct., Interception Pct., and Average Yards Gained Per Pass. However, in this case the rating is computed by looking at the passing statistics compiled by quarterbacks *against* each

	AFC						NFC						
	Att.	Comp.	Comp.	Gained	Gained	Pass	TD	Int.	Int.	Points	Att.	Comp.	Comp.
1. Kansas City	499	261	52.3	3361	6.74	21	4.2	30	6.0	62.7	1. Chicago	490	249
2. Pittsburgh	448	238	53.1	3256	7.27	19	4.2	28	6.3	64.3	2. New Orleans	496	271
3. Cincinnati	502	288	57.4	3163	6.30	17	3.4	23	4.6	68.3	3. Washington	570	301
4. Denver	552	308	55.8	3990	7.23	18	3.3	27	4.9	69.3	4. Minnesota	477	263
5. Miami	480	277	57.7	3365	7.01	19	4.0	26	5.4	70.2	5. St. Louis	519	290
6. L.A. Raiders	531	282	53.1	3646	6.87	20	3.8	20	3.8	71.8	6. L.A. Rams	556	319
7. New England	516	276	53.5	3565	6.91	19	3.7	17	3.3	74.0	7. Detroit	515	297
8. N.Y. Jets	463	268	57.9	3301	7.13	22	4.8	22	4.8	76.0	8. Tampa Bay	490	300
9. Cleveland	469	279	59.5	3313	7.06	22	4.7	22	4.7	77.1	9. Dallas	558	299
10. Seattle	521	311	59.7	4182	8.03	33	6.3	26	5.0	85.4	10. San Francisco	526	322
11. Buffalo	480	286	59.6	3553	7.40	22	4.6	13	2.7	86.6	11. N.Y. Giants	493	283
12. Baltimore	484	281	58.1	3832	7.92	31	6.4	20	4.1	87.7	12. Green Bay	518	300
13. San Diego	545	331	60.7	4084	7.49	28	5.1	16	2.9	88.8	13. Philadelphia	430	247
14. Houston	424	252	59.4	3142	7.41	26	6.1	14	3.3	89.0	14. Atlanta	493	313

COMPARING THE HALVES

Much of the Packers' disappointing season in 1983 can be attributed to their poor play in the second half of games. In the first half, they averaged 5½ more points per game than their opponents over the course of the regular season, but after the intermission, opponents outscored them by six points per contest. Below, the NFL teams are ranked according to how much their average point differential improved or worsened in the second half of regular-season games compared to the first half. Team records are in parentheses.

		AFC		
		1st Half	2nd Half	Difference
1.	Houston (2-14)	-8.3	-2.4	+5.9
2.	Seattle (9-7)	-2.3	+2.7	+5.0
3.	Denver (9-7)	-3.2	+1.6	+4.8
4.	New England (8-8)	-2.1	+1.1	+3.2
5.	Baltimore (7-9)	-4.3	-1.4	+2.9
6.	Miami (12-4)	+3.8	+4.9	+1.1
7.	Cleveland (9-7)	+0.1	+0.8	+0.7
8.	N.Y. Jets (7-9)	-0.6	-0.6	0
9.	L.A. Raiders (12-4)	+3.8	+2.8	-1.0
10.	Buffalo (8-8)	-1.4	-2.9	-1.5
11.	Pittsburgh (10-6)	+2.6	+0.6	-2.0
	San Diego (6-10)	-2.3	-4.3	-2.0
13.	Kansas City (6-10)	+2.3	-1.1	-3.4
14.	Cincinnati (7-9)	+6.3	-3.6	-9.9

		NFC		
		1st Half	2nd Half	Difference
1.	Dallas (12-4)	+1.6	+5.9	+4.3
2.	New Orleans (8-8)	-2.4	+1.3	+3.7
3.	Detroit (9-7)	+0.4	+3.4	+3.0
4.	Atlanta (7-9)	-1.9	+0.7	+2.6
5.	Philadelphia (5-11)	-3.9	-1.6	+2.3
6.	Tampa Bay (2-14)	-5.4	-3.3	+2.1
7.	L.A. Rams (9-7)	-0.1	+1.1	+1.2
8.	Minnesota (8-8)	-1.3	-0.8	+0.5
9.	San Francisco (10-6)	+4.4	+4.3	-0.1
10.	N.Y. Giants (3-12-1)	-1.8	-3.3	-1.5
11.	Chicago (8-8)	+1.1	-0.5	-1.6
12.	St. Louis (8-7-1)	-0.3	-3.1	-2.8
13.	Washington (14-2)	+9.5	+3.6	-5.9
14.	Green Bay (8-8)	+5.5	-6.1	-11.6

SIZING UP THE SECONDARIES

team for the season—the *lower* the rating, the better the pass defense. For example, last year Washington allowed 248 yards passing per game to rank last in the NFC, but opposing quarterbacks completed a low percentage of passes and were intercepted frequently by the Skins. By this method, Washington had the third best pass defense in the NFC. (Ratings are computed by the NFL's Passer Rating System.)

	AFC						NFC						
	Att.	Comp.	Comp.	Gained	Gained	Pass	TD	Int.	Int.	Points	Att.	Comp.	Comp.
1. Chicago	490	249	50.8	3526	7.20	15	3.1	21	4.3	66.8	1. Chicago	490	249
2. New Orleans	496	271	54.6	3142	6.33	20	4.0	23	4.6	68.1	2. New Orleans	496	271
3. Washington	570	301	52.8	4377	7.68	28	4.9	34	6.0	69.4	3. Washington	570	301
4. Minnesota	477	263	55.1	3229	6.77	23	4.8	25	5.2	70.5	4. Minnesota	477	263
5. St. Louis	519	290	55.9	3635	7.00	24	4.6	28	5.4	70.6	5. St. Louis	519	290
6. L.A. Rams	556	319	57.3	3869	6.96	18	3.2	24	4.3	71.5	6. L.A. Rams	556	319
7. Detroit	515	297	57.7	3401	6.60	21	4.1	22	4.3	73.4	7. Detroit	515	297
8. Tampa Bay	490	300	61.2	3624	7.40	15	3.1	23	4.7	74.6	8. Tampa Bay	490	300
9. Dallas	558	299	53.6	4365	7.82	27	4.8	27	4.8	75.3	9. Dallas	558	299
10. San Francisco	526	322	61.2	3701	7.04	23	4.4	24	4.6	77.9	10. San Francisco	526	322
11. N.Y. Giants	493	283	57.4	3584	7.27	26	5.3	23	4.7	78.3	11. N.Y. Giants	493	283
12. Green Bay	518	300	57.9	4033	7.79	20	3.9	19	3.7	80.3	12. Green Bay	518	300
13. Philadelphia	430	247	57.4	3048	7.09	20	4.7	8	1.9	87.2	13. Philadelphia	430	247
14. Atlanta	493	313	63.5	3734	7.57	28	5.7	15	3.0	93.0	14. Atlanta	493	313

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THE FAN

By GAY TALESE

Honor Thy Athletes

IN GENERAL I'M A sports fan to the degree that I understand the sport. I watch TV, go to baseball and basketball games, maybe baseball more than the others. I'm into the Nautilus thing three times a week, and participate mostly in tennis.

I'm knowledgeable about American tennis players and others, like Borg, who have been in the U.S. so much. I haven't seen Yannick Noah play that much, but I admire him as a great, acrobatic player, with his lunging and dancing; he's a rock star on the court, with an electric look. As for the other side

of his life, where he feels out of kilter with his nationality, that searching side of him as an exile—it adds interest. I have feelings for the individualist over the group performer.

I've always had a warm place in my heart for the outrageous. In my boyhood in Ocean City, N.J., I saw Earl Cochell. He yelled at an umpire and smashed a ball outside of the tennis arena, over the main street and the high school. I'll never forget the sight. They used white balls in those days. The ball went soaring, going higher and higher. I never saw one hit so high and far before; it was like watching something rise from Cape Canaveral. Cochell was 30 years before his time.

I have such respect for the athlete. We have no idea what discipline, patience, and talent it takes to be a performer and an athlete. I've always had enormous respect for athletes who can make a team and have their names mean something. They don't have to be superstars, simply on the team. Most of us have been fans who have tried to make a team, or wanted to, and didn't. Once I wrote about boxer Floyd Patterson in "The Loser" in a collection of mine. He said that

Anthony Quinn had said that he could fight better than Patterson. Floyd resented that. He said that he would give Quinn a heart attack, just being in the ring with him. Patterson wouldn't even have to touch him.

The athlete is worthy of respect. I just saw the Yankees against the Texas Rangers. The Yanks brought in some new young Latin-American pitcher for relief in the eighth inning. He pitched through the 10th inning. He had the character and courage not to let anyone get a run. Think of the pressure he was under!

Most of us can always blame other people for our failures. A vice president of a corporation can always spread the blame around. But the athlete performs in such a public way, he can't blame anybody.

The life of an athlete is so interesting, difficult, and little-known. We read about the stars but never really get the feeling of what it's like to be a professional, an unrecognized star, an obscure victim. And the wives who are widows of the game, and the "Army brat" kids.

Tennis is what I play year-round, breaking up the solitude of my workday from about 1

to 4 p.m. I get back to work from 5 to 8 p.m. I wish I had learned to play tennis when I was very young. You can't learn to swim, ski, parachute—perhaps do anything—as well later in life. When you're young, it's all wild, unsown sexual energy.

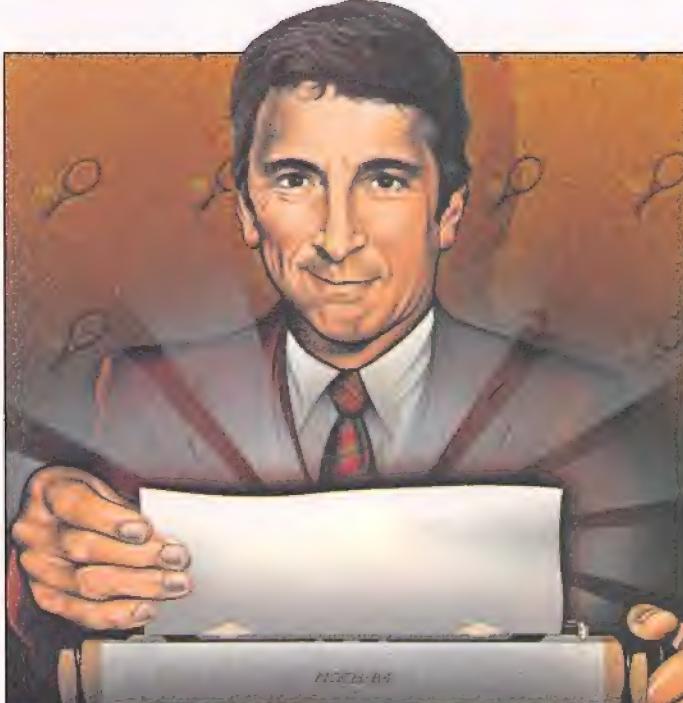
I like doubles very much, as I get older. It's so interesting, if you have four matched players at any level of expertise. There are the doubles strategies for the net, for lobs, returns of service. I'm mesmerized by the varieties of skills involved in doubles. It's beautiful to see the movements of people playing doubles. If you're sitting high up, you can see mathematics, energy, skill, ballet.

In doubles, I like to play opponents who are better than I am, and it's not hard for me to do. At various charity events, I've played on courts as a partner with Ham Richardson, Roy

Emerson, and many other famous players. Then you see how fast the great players are. You don't really see that until you're playing with them. This streaking figure who's your partner gets the ball.

For example, someone once lobbed a ball well over my head and hit the backline. I said to myself, 'It's in the Bronx.' Emerson turns around and streaks back like a center fielder. Before the second bounce, he's around with enough of a racket, lofting the ball with wrist action and getting it back in play. The great professional athlete is able to do anything. The papers say that someone messed up a routine grounder. But there's no such thing as a routine grounder. From TV you get no sense of speed. At ringside, you get a sense of the punishment in boxing that you cannot get on TV. If any one of us had a glove and was sent into the outfield and had the misfortune to have a ball hit in our direction, we'd just want to dig a hole. ■

GAY TALESE, author of such novels as 'Honor Thy Father' and 'Thy Neighbor's Wife,' and a regular contributor to major magazines, has little time to catch fly balls.



'The life of an athlete is so difficult. Most of us can blame other people for our failures. But the athlete performs in such a public way, he can't blame anybody.'

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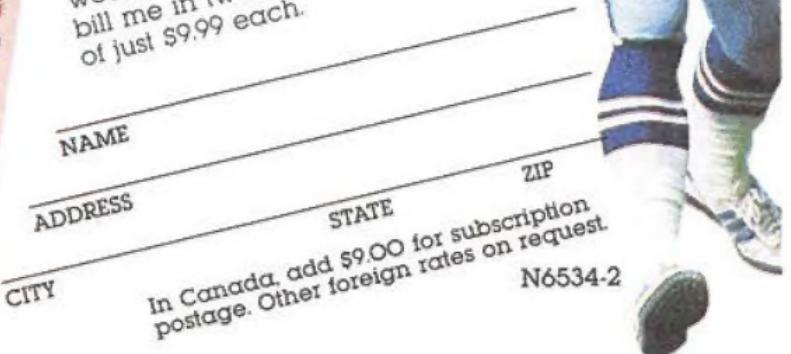
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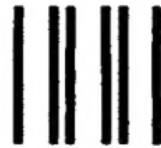
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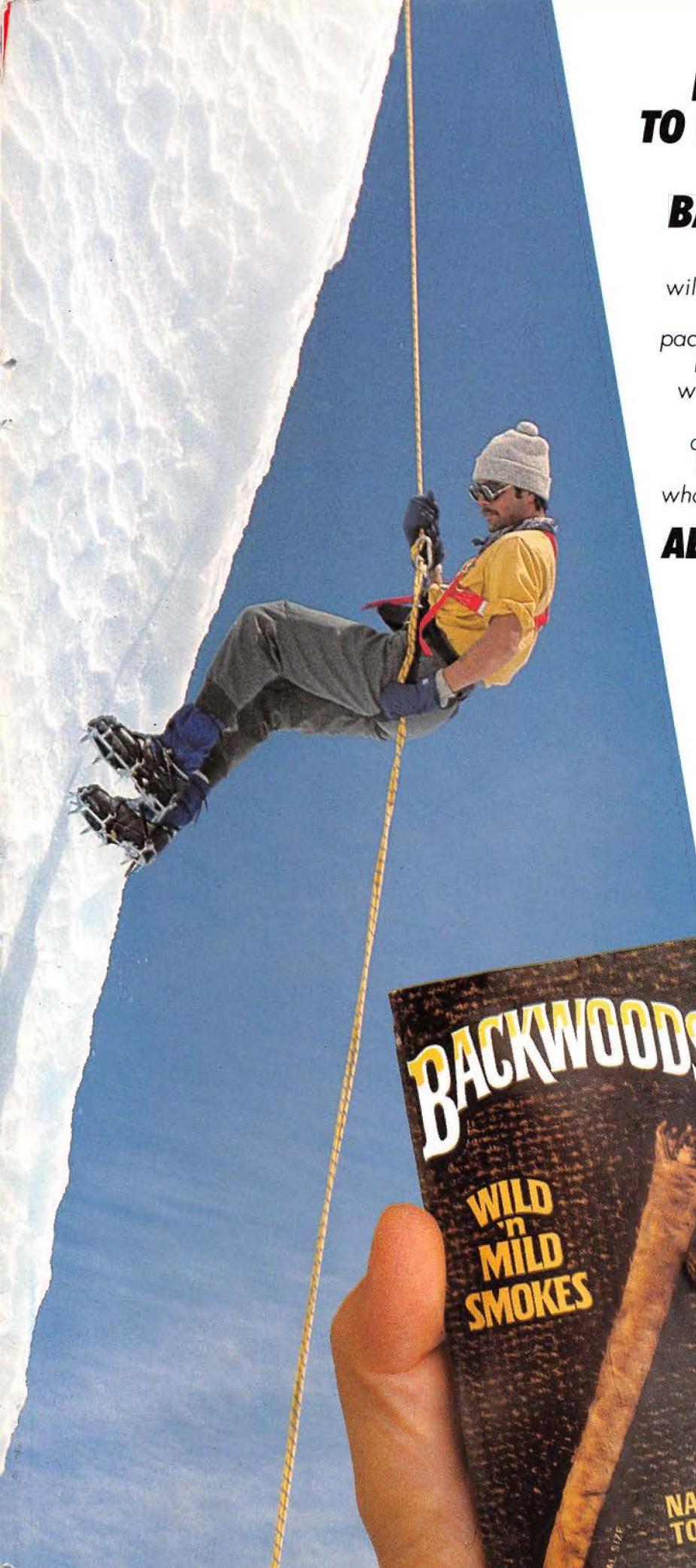
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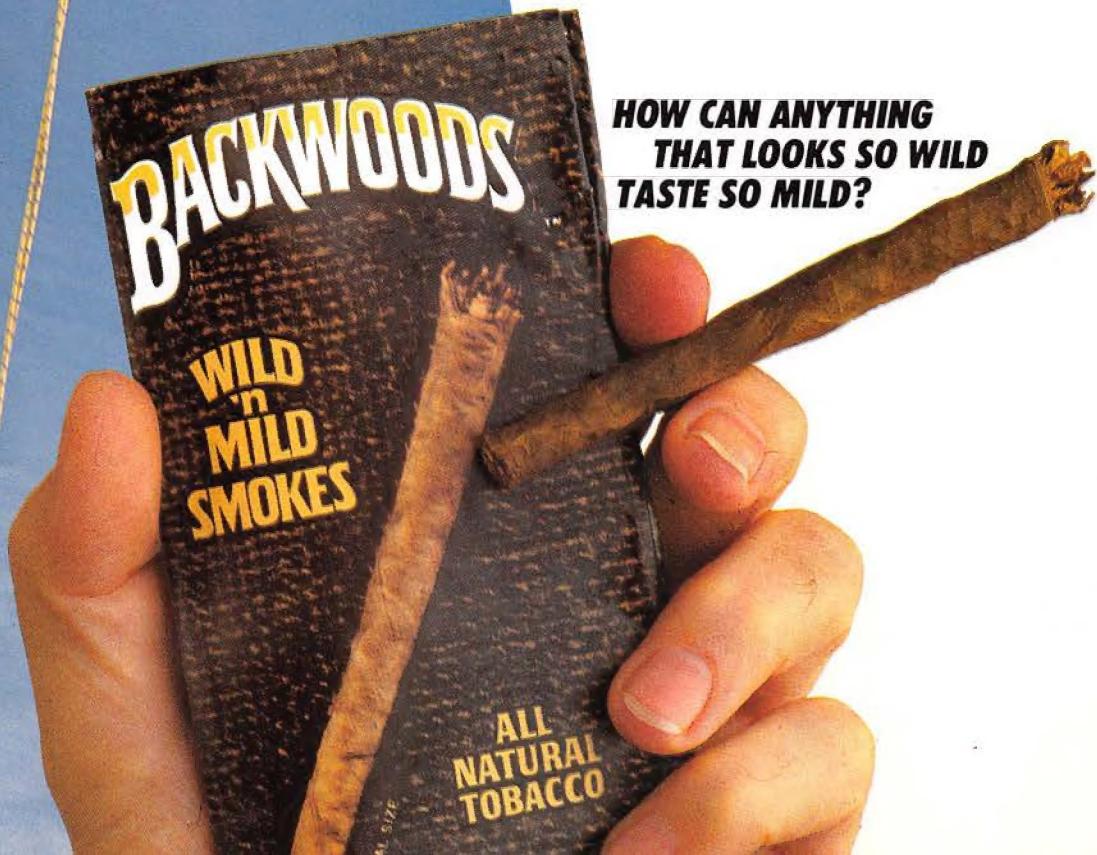
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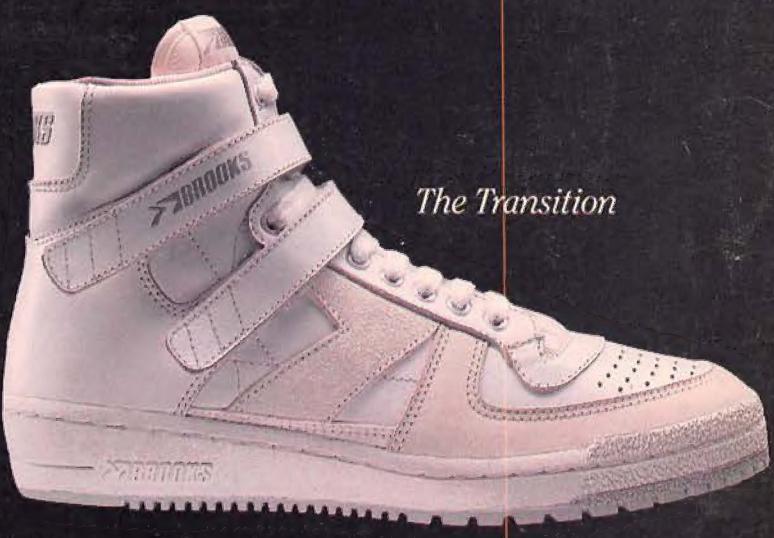
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